

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

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Mark Aulger had only days to live, and he wanted to see his unborn child.

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# Birth tourism on the upswing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

At least three websites and one unnamed agency in China are marketing the CNMI among Chinese women as a good destination to give birth if they want automatic U.S. citizenship for their children—all for a minimum service charge of \$11,000, on top of hospital fees.

The fees being charged for Saipan or the U.S. mainland have become a lot more attractive for mainland Chinese because these charges are cheaper than giving birth in Hong Kong nowadays.

The websites, in Chinese language, show pictures of the Commonwealth

Healthcare Corp.'s facilities on Saipan where clients from China are supposed to give birth.

They also carry photos of some Saipan apartments/housing rentals where clients

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## IN BRIEF

Websites and an agency sell the CNMI among Asian women as a good place to give birth to U.S. citizen babies.



The home page of saipanbaby.com



## KEEP CONSULATE OPEN

Filipinos on Saipan sign the petition that seeks to keep the services of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan open to the Filipino community at the Pusong Pinoy event of the United Filipino Organization on Sunday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

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## Mafnas believes killing, rape were drug related

» **DPS commissioner: Investigation at very critical stage**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Public Safety Commissioner Ramon Mafnas expressed belief yesterday that illegal

drugs were involved in both the killing of bartender Emerita Relata Romero and the reported rape and attempted kidnapping of an Asian woman in Garapan.

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## \$11.58M line of credit bill to avert CHC crisis

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» **House suspends rule to OK Basa's revised CHC bill**  
» **Hospital CEO hopes employees won't walk out of their jobs**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The House of Representatives suspended their rules yesterday to pass a newly revised bill seeking an \$11.58 million line of credit for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. after CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta announced during the session that non-essential hospital employees were not paid on Friday because of financial shortfall as well as rumblings about possible employee

See **CREDIT** on **Page 4**



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## Local

### Nearly 50 students and 21 companies attend career fair

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Over 20 companies and nearly 50 students from two public high schools on island graced the Public School System's career fair yesterday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Tyce Mister, Marianas High School cooperative program instructor, said 22 mostly senior students participated from his class while 25 joined from Kagman High School, led by their cooperative education instructor, Christopher Tenorio.

Yesterday's event was the second initiated by the co-op program for the school year. Over 100 students from three public high schools joined the same event in September 2011.

The PSS co-op program is designed to help prepare students for the job market. It consists of both instruction on campus and training off campus. Students participate in completing resumes, applications, interviews, personal development, and other projects.

Freddy Ogo, a junior from KHS, was seen approaching representatives of various firms, asking them questions, and writing down notes for reference. He said the fair helped him understand the operation of many companies.

First-timers Caitlin Chargualaf and Labian Muna, both from KHS, told *Saipan Tribune* that the actual interview and personal interaction with company representatives were good experiences.

Interested in becoming a military counselor, Chargualaf said that yesterday's experience will be a stepping stone for her future.

"I was really nervous because this is my first time to join this fair, but as I go along, it makes me feel comfortable," she said.

Tenorio, KHS co-op education teacher, said the fair is an opportunity for high school students to establish contacts with potential employers. He encouraged more companies to join the fair to help equip students with the necessary tools and information on how to get a job.

Among the participants in the fair were Marianas Health, Law Revision Commission, Office of Adult Probation, Kan Pacific Saipan, NMC, PSS HRO, MVA, PIC, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, LaoLao Bay, KKMP, WIA, NMHC, Hyatt, IT&E, Joeten, Department of Labor, NMTI, Tan Holdings, RTT Law, and Torres Refrigeration.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority  
*Tourism is everybody's business.*

**7th Saipan Marathon Registration Deadline Feb. 9**



Organizers of the 7th Saipan Marathon on March 3, 2012 are reminding runners to register by the deadline of Feb. 9.

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) has been working closely with ad agency Dentsu of Japan to promote the Saipan Marathon on a marathon information website called Runtomo that targets beginner runners. The site carries information on the event and tourist attractions under the Saipan Marathon section and features a top banner link on the top page. Registration in Japan began in late October and is being accepted through three sites: Sports Entry, JTB Sports Station, and Runnet. About 950 runners are expected this year.

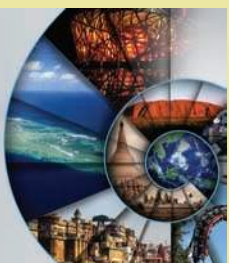
Details of the event were distributed to travel agents by e-mail. As a result, JTB World Vacations, ST World, Hiroden, KNT, White Bear, H.I.S., NTA Hokkaido, Club Tourism have created Saipan Marathon travel package products.

This year's race will add a 50K leg to the continuing full marathon (26.2 mi./42.195km), a half marathon (13.1 mi./21.1km) and a 10K (6.2 miles). Over 20 international runners have already registered for the ultra marathon 50K.

For a registration form or more information, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com) or <http://japan.mymarianas.com/saipanmarathon/> or contact Ed Diaz of the MVA at [ediaz@mymarianas.com](mailto:ediaz@mymarianas.com) or 1.670.664.3200/1. Registration payment may be made via cash or check at the MVA Accounting Office, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m.



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# Over 1.3K signatures seek retention of PH consulate on Saipan

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Over 1,300 Filipinos have already signed the petition that seeks to keep the Philippine Consulate General open on Saipan.

The petition was circulated at Sunday's first ever *Pusong Pinoy* event held at the Civic Center in Susupe and hosted by the United Filipino Organization, which also spearheaded the signature campaign.

"We need to let the Philippine government know that we here in the Marianas need the services of the Consulate," UFO stated in the petition.

Fe Villanueva, who has been on island for two decades, said it is important to keep the Philippine diplomatic post on Saipan open.

"Should we need help, the Consulate is there for us. What will happen to us when they close down? Where are we going to seek assistance?" asked Villanueva of Dandan.

Chalan Kanoa resident Tely Gutierrez, for her part, said the Consulate has been providing

assistance in terms of applicable laws to the Filipino community in the CNMI.

"They explain these laws to us so we can have better understanding and we'll know what to do. If they leave, we won't have anybody to turn to for help," said Gutierrez, a house worker who has been on Saipan for six years.

Bert Bandoja, who works at the Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., said the Consulate has been of significant help for many Filipinos in the Commonwealth.

"If they transfer their responsibilities to Guam, then they will be too far for the Filipinos in the CNMI. How are we going to renew our passports or avail of other services they offer?" asked Bandoja, who has been on island since 1987.

Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez said in an interview at his office that the Filipino community needs the Philippine Consulate General now more than ever because of the transition period for all foreign workers in the Commonwealth due to federalization.

"I've seen the services they

have provided through the years that I've been here in the CNMI and I can say that the services of the Consulate for the Filipino community is very critical," said Jimenez, who has been on the islands since 1995.

Jimenez, apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, said he is personally saddened because he sees Consul General Medardo Macaraig and his family go to church regularly. His children also attend Mount Carmel School.

Jimenez said that behind this decision to close down the consulate "are real lives of real people" who will be affected by its closure.

"I know that in the end, it will be the Philippine government that will decide but at least we'll be able to show them that we value the services of the consulate through every signature that they will

see in that petition," he added.

A total of 1,322 signatures were affixed in the petition as of 8pm last night, and more signatures are expected from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, according to UFO president Bong Malasarte.

He emphasized that the signature campaign is not just the efforts of the organization but of the entire Filipino community.

"The overwhelming support

for the petition just goes to show the significance of our Consulate for the Filipino community in the CNMI," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malasarte noted that the number of signatures still does not reflect those that will be coming from Tinian and Rota. He said the petition, which is also being circulated by Filipino leaders on those two islands, transcends group association and religion.

Malasarte urged Filipinos who have yet to sign the petition to do so as they will be passing it around until the end of February before they send it to the office of the Philippine president and vice president as well as the DFA office.

"We are calling on all our *kababayans* to support this petition so we can make the government realize that we need the services of our consulate here," he said.

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plus  
A Bottle of Red or White Wine

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Shrimp Bisque  
Mixed Green Salad  
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Chocolate Kahlua Cake with Coffee or Iced Tea & Watermelon  
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# DPS: Bones found in Kagman belonged to Quitugua

The Department of Public Safety has confirmed that the human bones found in Kagman III last August were that of 71-year-old Ricardo Muna Quitugua and that he died of natural causes.

DPS Commissioner Ramon Mafnas

told reporters yesterday that Guam chief medical examiner Aurelio Espinola who conducted the autopsy made these findings.

Mafnas said they sent a piece of the remains to the FBI's Laboratory in

Virginia for DNA testing. He said the DNA testing is pending.

However, Mafnas said, Dr. Espinola made a determination so they informed the Office of the Attorney General about the findings.

The OAG wrote a letter on Feb. 6 to the Commonwealth Health Center, giving the family's permission to bury the remains.

The bones were discovered on Aug. 14, 2011, after a dog looking for a bone

to chew on dragged a leg bone to somebody's house.

Investigators later determined that the bones belonged to an old man. Family members strongly believed that the remains belong to Quitugua, who lived in a shack in the area. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

## CREDIT

From Page 1

walkout if salary delays are prolonged.

Only doctors, nurses, and other so-called essential CHC employees got their salaries on Friday, Babauta told House members.

Administrative and all other employees, along with nurses on Rota, have yet to be paid, he added. This was not the first time for this to happen at the hospital.

He told lawmakers that CHC faces the risk of having its doctors, nurses, and other employees walk out of their jobs because of the corporation's financial problems.

CHC spends some \$800,000 bi-weekly or some \$1.6 million a month for the payroll of its estimated 600 employees on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Babauta, in an interview after the session, said CHC was only able to pay essential employees worth almost \$500,000. This means they were short some \$300,000 to pay non-essential employees.

After a lengthy discussion, question-and-answer with CHC officials and two floor amendments, Rep. Ray Basa's (R-Saipan) bill authorizing the Marianas Public Land Trust to provide up to \$11.58 million line of credit to CHC passed the House.

House Bill 17-258, House Draft 2 passed the House by a vote of 16-2. It now goes to the Senate.

Of the \$11.58 million, the \$10 million "line of credit" is for operational needs, while \$1.58 million is for a loan for an electronic health information technology initiative.

The interest and terms and conditions will be negotiated by CHC and MPLT.

The term of availability of this credit facility will not exceed five years.

Babauta thanked Basa, House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and the whole House for passing the bill and hopes that the Senate will also pass the bill, to be immediately sent to the governor for action.

"I will be available to them [Senate] to answer any questions they might have and to emphasize the fact that we are facing a serious financial situation at CHC and this is going to involve ultimately the patients that we [serve] at the hospital and we need this financial support immediately. We look forward to going to the Senate for this," Babauta said in an interview.

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogomoro (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) offered floor amendments that the members adopted to put more "safeguards" in case of payment default, among other things.

### 'Unconstitutional'

The two "no" votes in the House came from Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) mainly because of what they believe as possible unconstitutional provisions in the bill, although they support the intent to help CHC get back on its feet.

Tenorio said the Legislature has no authority under the Constitution to tell MPLT what to do with its money, and MPLT could just directly loan money to CHC. Moreover, he said MPLT money is supposed to be for Northern Marianas Descent programs and not for any other programs such as CHC

whose clientele, he said, are mostly non-NMDs.

He also said the Constitution grants the governor to declare a state of emergency to address the crisis at CHC.

"The governor can declare a state of emergency [for CHC]...He can take money from MPLT or the Retirement Fund, though the Retirement Fund will be bankrupt unless we approve the [Saipan] casino bill," Tenorio said, drawing reaction from some in the House chamber on the mention of the casino bill.

Tenorio, a former governor and speaker, said if the bill is passed into law in its current form, it could be "challenged because of its potential unconstitutional provisions." Maratita echoed Tenorio's concerns.

Two other House members were absent: Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) and Rep. Sylvester Iguel (R-Saipan).

### 'Short-term' solution

In his appeal to House members, Babauta said timely payment of all hospital employees hinges on the immediate passage and enactment of the line-of-credit bill, which he described as a "temporary, short-term" solution until CHC gets its finances on track.

Babauta, a former governor, said CHC expects that it will be able to turn around its financial situation in the next few months.

Basa withdrew his original \$10 million loan bill, House Bill 17-258, and introduced a revised version, HB 17-278.

HB 17-278 combines HB 17-258 and another bill that also tries to source \$1.58 million from MPLT for CHC's electronic health information initiative.

The measure pledges as security the interest income distributions from

ferent from a China mainland passport. Holders of Hong Kong passports are allowed to travel to many countries.

"The staffer said several hundred mainland women had flown to the island each year since 2009 to have their babies," the Hong Kong-based paper said.

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security granted visa waiver for Chinese and Russian tourists.

One Chinese citizen on Saipan said yesterday that in a way, the so-called "birth tourism" is helping to boost the CNMI economy in terms of apartment rental, car rental, availing of services at CHC, food, and other services.

The Chinese citizen said that only rich Chinese women or couple could afford giving birth in the CNMI because, among other things, they wouldn't be able to get their child's U.S. passport without first settling all their hospital bills.

"They don't stay here. They spend their money here, give birth, and then leave," the citizen said.

One of the websites said normal delivery could cost about \$11,000 on Saipan.

The Fitial administration has yet to comment about the issue as of press time but Gov. Benigno R. Fitial earlier said matters such as these should be addressed by the federal government since it has already taken control of CNMI immigration since 2009.

## BIRTH

From Page 1

could stay, some Saipan tourist spots, links to CNMI and federal agencies' websites, and a list of benefits of having a U.S. citizen baby, among other articles.

The websites include saipanbaby.com, which shut down a few years back after local media reported about it but is now active again.

The other one is saipanbb.com, which could also be accessed by visiting pacificweekly.net.

The websites also list the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and birthright citizenship as reasons to have babies in the CNMI, whose capital is Saipan.

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees U.S. citizenship to those born on its territory, provided the person is "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States.

For years, Saipan has been host not only to pregnant Chinese tourists but also Korean tourists who come to the CNMI to give birth to U.S. citizen children and leave after they get their children's U.S. passport.

This so-called "birth tourism," a term for traveling to a country that practices birthright citizenship in order to give birth there so that the child will be a citizen of the destination country,

has been well documented.

The website advertising the CNMI as a destination for giving birth lists the CNMI and China contact numbers.

One of the websites says the best time to come to Saipan is if a woman is six to eight months pregnant.

It also recommends staying on Saipan for three to six months.

It says it charges \$2,000 for airport pickup, escort in health checkups, translation service, help in finding an apartment, among other things. Other expenses such as apartment rental, power and water services, hospital fees, birth certificate, U.S. passport, and other fees and expenses are also shouldered by the visitor.

A Feb. 7, 2012, *South China Morning Post* article titled "Mainland mums look West after Hong Kong backlash" quotes a staffer from an agency that specializes in helping women from mainland China deliver babies on Saipan and charges just 70,000 yuan or \$11,000 for roundtrip tickets to the U.S. island, medical services, and two months' food and accommodation.

Hong Kong now charges higher fees for delivering babies there, and now has a cap on the number of non-locals who can give birth in the city, *South China Morning Post* said. It added that fees for non-local mothers giving birth in Hong Kong have surged in the past year. The Hong Kong passport is dif-

## MAFNAS

From Page 1

In a news briefing, Mafnas said he believes that the suspects in the two cases are drug users who "unfortunately failed to control their behavior and failed to respect human lives and property."

He pointed out, however, that they don't have evidence that the two cases are connected.

He said DPS has reached a very critical stage in the investigation of both cases and that DPS assigned many personnel and resources just for the two cases.

"All these efforts require close coordination and management to maximize effectiveness and prevent gross errors," Mafnas said.

He said DPS is working closely with the FBI in gathering, preserving, and processing of evidence.

"Forensic examinations and assessments on all evidence are being performed on-island and off-island. The results can only strengthen the government's case," he said.

As for the green or blue sedan where Romero was reportedly last seen boarding around 3am on Feb. 5 in Garapan, Mafnas disclosed that the vehicle "has been processed."

"We are processing that vehicle. We have yet to determine the significance of that particular vehicle," he said.

When asked if the vehicle has al-

loan but only the interest on what it will actually draw down.

He also said he would have wanted all government nurses to be directly under CHC and not sourced through manpower. Rota nurses also didn't get paid on time.

"The reason why they've been caught in this non-payment situation is we had to take them off the manpower and we had to apply for their CW status for them. We waited for that for over a month before they were officially given status and now we're caught in this deep financial situation and I just regret, very sorry that they haven't been paid. I know that's not going to put food on the table but I'll make up for it," he added.

CHC took over the Department of Public Health on Oct. 1, or three years since the enactment of a law creating the corporation.

Basa said CHC has made drastic improvements in a short time but there is plenty of room for further improvement.

Based on initial assessment, CHC's uncollected bills amount to some \$52 million, of which only over \$20 million can be potentially collected because the statute of limitations has already run out.

Moreover, the \$1 million collected in November 2011 was used mainly for personnel costs. CHC still owes its vendors more than \$1 million in unpaid obligations.

"Clearly, despite the creation of the corporation as an independent agency, CHC still functions as a semi-government entity because it still heavily relies on the general fund for operations," Basa said.

ready been identified, Mafnas replied, "We never said that."

He refused to comment if the police have any good leads in the Romero case.

Romero's body was found by FBI agents at the northernmost building of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque in the afternoon of Feb. 7.

In the case of the woman who was raped in Garapan, Mafnas disclosed that DPS is currently searching for a 2002 Hyundai Accent four-door sedan, yellowish gold color with black wheels without hubs.

"There is a possibility that the color of the sedan has been changed or painted over. The license plate number on the vehicle is faded," he said.

An unidentified man beat up and raped the victim, described as 25-year-old Asian, at knife-point inside her bedroom in western Garapan on Jan. 29. DPS only released the information to the media last Thursday, Feb. 9.

The suspect also tried to take the victim with him to his car but she managed to escape by yelling for help.

The suspect was described as in his late teens to early 20's, brown complexioned, very short hair, about 5'5" to 5'8" tall, and weighing 150 to 170 lbs.

The victim sustained some injuries. Medics transported her to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The victim's apartment is located a few blocks away from Godfather's Bar, where Romero worked as a bartender.



# Quichocho is NMC Foundation's new president

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The board of directors of the Northern Marianas College Foundation has elected Ivan

Quichocho as its new president, succeeding long-time leader Ben Babauta who quit the post on Dec. 31.

Quichocho's selection was made at a recent organiza-

tional meeting where they also took up their biggest fundraiser for the year—the annual golf tournament in April.

Quichocho had been the group's vice president for a

couple of years. He started serving the foundation in 2000 as one of its directors.

He said yesterday that the foundation will soon hire a new executive director to replace Frankie El-liptico, who is now the college director for institutional effectiveness.

When asked about the possibility of hiring a consultant for the foundation, Quichocho said the organization needs to evaluate its finances first. He said no proposal has been put forward to date with regards to consultancy work or application.

"There is no proposal being put forward and we haven't

received any. Since the departure of former president Ben Babauta, we're very focused on the annual tournament," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

What the foundation is really looking forward to is to hire an executive director and not a consultant, he added.

"We have to evaluate our finances. Secondly, the whole effort of the foundation now is in the annual golf tournament, which drives our finances. From there, we can decide what is our overall strategy," he said.

The NMC Board of Regents established the NMC Foundation in 1999 for the purpose

of acquiring funds from alternative sources to support the advancement of the college's educational programs and services. It is a non-profit organization composed of community volunteers, primarily from the business sector, who are dedicated to improving higher education in the CNMI by encouraging private and public support for NMC.

According to Quichocho, the foundation has an estimated asset value of close to \$5 million. The bulk of that portfolio is in stocks and other investments.

The golf tournament, Quichocho said, brings significant revenue for the group, ranging from \$60,000 to over \$100,000 a year.



Quichocho

## Lack of Liberation funding worries Flores

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores expressed concern over a local appropriations bill that does not contain any funding for the 2012 Liberation Day or Fourth of July festivities.

"Without funding for this important recurring, annual event, we do not know how to fund it or where to find the funds for it," Flores said in a Feb. 2 letter to Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan).

Flores urged Tebuteb, chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, to consider providing appropriation to cover expenses for the biggest community event in the CNMI by revising House Local Bill 17-68.

The Fourth of July celebration's expenses totaled \$69,281.51 in 2011, exceeding the budget by over \$24,000.

The biggest expense, \$12,960, was for the rental of tents for the various food and non-food vendor booths.



Flores

Other major expenses were emcee and entertainment for \$8,774, stage and sound system at \$7,900, raffle prizes at \$6,000, and meal coupons at \$5,250.

The Saipan delegation had allocated \$45,000 for the Fourth of July festivities.

To cover the rest of the expenses, the Mayor's Office used concession booth fees in the amount of \$13,940, ticket sales of Liberation Queen candidates at \$11,850, balance from the previous Liberation

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Position Vacancy Announcement

**Position: Vice President/General Manager (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 10 years experience managing full service 36 hole golf course, experience in developing and marketing and coordinating marketing strategies, knowledge of business management practices of golf course operation and hotel operation, assignment and projects for the golf course, maintain and grow membership and customer by promptly handling member and guest concerns and issues, ensure open communication and high visibility to members and guest by conducting daily walk through of the club, generate revenue by acting as sales manager for the entire golf club and resort, expand sales by initiating and monitoring effectiveness of monthly promotions, demand managements and demand creation strategies.

**Position: Executive Chef (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years experienced and training in culinary cooking and have graduated from a Culinary School, accounts for the management and supervision of kitchen staff and cooks, provides a consistently high quality of food product services to guests and customers, ensure that meals are produced, presented and served to the highest possible standards, monitors materials, supplies and equipment needs, ensure staff uphold and maintain current standards of hygiene and safety, ensure the kitchen maintains a high level of sanitary conditions in a accordance with and all applicable laws, statutes, and policies, communicate with staff in order to facilitate and conduct a team approach, monitor food trend and incorporate new styles and ideas to fulfill customer demands and needs.

**Position: Assistant Chef, Korean Cuisine (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 3 years in the preparation of Korean food, will be involved in Korean menu development, inventory, ordering/purchasing, food cost control, training, personnel management such as coaching, complies to all applicable Sanitation Codes, ensure efficient, safe and sanitary food production, preparation, presentation and knowledgeable of Korean food trends with focus on quality, experience in large catering or banquet functions, excellent communication skills in Korean and basic English to understand and follow recipe, able to communicate on all levels, including management, departmental and customer.

**Position: Chef de Partie (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 7 Years of cooking experience and training, responsible for the creation of high quality dishes, able to work independently, cooks consistently and enthusiastically on a high level, helps create and cook to perfection seasonal and including a five course modern gourmet menu, small selection of signature a la carte dishes, cooks and prepares for each meal service, controls incoming goods and stores food, vegetables, fruits, staple in a perfect conditions, guest orientated and able to converse with the clients, actively attends wine and general trainings, team building events and supplier visits to learn about local product, has fun cooking, is a sociable person, likes to work as a teamwork, and respects and actively works with colleagues.

**Position: Chief Cook (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 5 years of experience and training, knowledge of standards of food preparation, serves, and observes kitchen procedures, experience in kitchen management, train kitchen staff, monitoring and assessing performance of the kitchen staff to make improvements or take corrective action, direct the preparation, seasoning, and cooking of food, determine how food should be presented and create decorative food displays, ensure timely delivery of services, estimate amounts and costs of required supplies, instruct cook and other kitchen staff in the preparation, cooking, garnishing and presentation of food, monitor sanitation practices to ensure that employees follow standards and regulations.

**Position: Cook (6)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 3 years of experience and training, prepares or directs preparation of foods according to prescribed menus and recipes, takes inventory of supplies on hand and orders food supplies, ingredients and other consumables on a schedules basis as determined by menu and estimated number of customers, cleans and sanitizes all food preparation equipment and ensures that it is kept in safe and operable condition, knowledge of methods, materials, and practices of volume food preparation, sanitary methods used in food preparation.

**Position: Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage Department (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of working experience and training, Must have supervisory experienced and training preferably in hotel and resort facilities, have experienced for all food and beverage services including banquet catering, bar/grill, dining restaurant, and outside beverage carts, must have cost control of all food and beverage outlets by helping in overseeing the purchasing of food, maintains effective inventory and shortage controls, work with the Executive Chef to develop an annual food and beverage plan and budget, ensure successful operation of special events, banquets, rentals, coordinates the delivery for all food and beverage service to the customer at the highest guest standard, supervise staff and operational during shift, ensure all of the services provided are immediate need of the customer, maintain and develop a dedicated team providing the highest quality of service and addresses all staffing issues in a fair and timely manner.

**Position: Wait staff (Waiter&Waitress) (5)**  
**Qualifications:** 2 years experience and training, must have preferably worked at a hotel or tourism industry, ability to listen to and understand through spoken words and sentences, ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern, communicating with Supervisors, peers, or subordinates, handling and moving of objects, judging the qualities of things, services, or people, performing general physical activities, talking to others to convey information effectively, acting listening and service orientated.

**Position: Kitchen Helper (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 3 years of working experience, must be familiar with the dynamics of a professional kitchen is a plus, willingness to learn, time and space management skills, physical stamina, a friendly temperament, a desire to help out where needed and the ability to foster the creation and maintenance of a cohesive team, assist cooks, keep kitchen clean, perform a variety of food preparation task, assist with food and beverage service, receive and store supplies, sweeps and mops floors, segregates and removes trash and garbage and places, hoses out garbage container, washes pots, pans, trays by hand, scrapes food from dirty dishes and washes them by hand or place them in racks.

**Position: Assistant Manager, Front Office (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 2 years of experienced and training in the field of hotel and golf resort operation, must be organized, neat and professional appearance, pleasant, tactful and patient, able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, committed to providing good service, enjoyed dealing with people, ability to direct and control the activities of the Front Office, Reservations, deal with customer complaints, knowledge of a second language is a plus (write, read, and speak)computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications, and superior written and oral communications skills, ability to respond properly and take a supervisory role in any hotel emergency or safety situation.

**Position: Korean Concierge (1)**  
**Qualification:** 3 years of experienced and training, must have worked in a hotel or tourism industry, communicate directly with guests, both in person and by telephone, provides information on facilities to Korean speaking guest at the golf & resort, provide information and services in Korean, must be able to offer the Korean guest in any number of special circumstances, good communication skills in Korean language is vitally important, provides all the information that the guest needs to enjoy their stay, good problem solving skills, good organizational skills, must be trained and experienced in tourism or hospitality managements, excellent customer service skills.

**Position: Supervisor, Japan Sales & Marketing (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years experienced and training in marketing strategy for the Japanese market, must be fluent in the Japanese language as well as to read and write, experienced contacting and selling to Corporate level executives, experienced in Sales and Marketing most especially in the Japan markets, built and managed a network of marketing and selling Hotel and Golf product

and services, possess innovative business promotional and advertising activities, strong negotiating skills, knowledgeable of the Japanese customers needs, have strong demonstrations skills, must work with management team to create sales and marketing plans that includes to identify and target Japan Markets, identify potential Japanese clients.

**Position: Supervisor Pro Shop (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 3 years of supervisory experienced and training, able to lead, direct and motivate the sales team in order to achieve sales objectives, identifies appropriate business targets, provides a professional and excellent level of customer service with existing and new customers, supervises scheduled shift, completes all assigned duties, supervises sale associates, ensure that all employees adhere to company policies and procedures, knowledge of principles, techniques, and objectives of marketing, manages a sales program, knowledge of hotel management and philosophy.

**Position: Sales Representative, Pro shop (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of training and experienced in the field of golf operation, must maintain outstanding customer service, generating sales, merchandising, must be fully competent in selling, knowledgeable of cashing and receipt processing, knows how to operate a computerized point of sale cash receipts, inventory management system, ensure that each customer receives, ability to work varied hours/days, including nights, weekends and holidays as needed, must recognize security risks and thefts and know how to handle or prevent such situations.

**Position: Front Desk Supervisor (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 3 years of hospitality work, must have total understanding of all hotel front office procedures, know standard of cash handling, knowledge of computerized cash register systems, reservation system, must have experience in dealing directly with the public and acquired general knowledge of basic customer service skills, experienced and trained in the field of Front Office Operation, assist the Front Office Staff in handling customers in an efficient, gracious and professional manner and maintains a friendly, cheerful and courteous demeanor at all times.

**Position: Front Desk Clerk (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have at least 2 year experienced and training in hotel hospitality or tourism industry, must have good communication skills, professional attitude and organization, enjoy working with people, experienced in customer services, sales, ability to use a computer, handles cash, experienced in administrative skills, ensure guests billing is correct, must assist in general maintenance and inventory of Front Office supplies, be courteous and efficient with customers.

**Position: Front Desk Clerk, China/Korea Market (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Assist the front desk clerks in handling Korean and Chinese guests in an efficient, gracious and professional manger, responsible for the management, organization of the Front Office and related functions pertaining to the Korean and Chinese guests, respond and display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as well to a wide variety of people, enjoys dealing with people, computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications and superior Korean/Chinese written, and oral communication skills.

**Position: Executive Housekeeping (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 7 years experience and training is required, must have worked preferably at a hotel, responsible for the smooth, efficient, cost effective operation of the Housekeeping Department, inventory control, works closely with Front Desk Assistant Manager to resolve all room discrepancies, possesses good knowledge of all matters relating to the proper administration of the House-keeping department, provides employee safety training to prevent accidents, maintains quality standards through inspection programs, follows and ensures compliance to all hotel control procedures by staff.

**Position: Housekeeping (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years of experience and training cleaning hotel rooms, ensure clean, orderly attractive rooms in hotels, and must have training cleaning golf facilities, prepare a list of prospective check-outs, investigates complaints regarding housekeeping service and equipment, takes corrective action, operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials, conducts inventories to ensure adequate supplies, observe precautions required to protect hotel guests' property, and report theft or found articles to supervisors.

**Position: Chief Accountant (1)**  
**Qualifications:** must have bachelor's degree in public or business administration, accounting, finance or related field, supplemented by 5 years progressively responsible experience in business accounting, ability to understand, follow and confer written and oral instructions, ability to effectively supervise a staff comprised of entry and journey level professionals engaged in carrying out departmental functions, extensive knowledge of generally accepted standard accounting principles, established procedures, departmental guidelines and regulatory requirements.

**Position: Accountant I (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of experienced and training, and a college graduate in the field of accounting or related field, maintain general ledger accounting system, analyze accounts and prepare account adjustment as needed, assist with fixed asset and inventory systems and record-keeping, perform a variety of complex, professional level accounting functions, maintain confidentiality of payroll and other related records, ability to prepare clear, concise and comprehensive financial, statistical and narrative reports, and perform complex financial, statistical, budgetary cost analysis and ability to perform complex accounting duties related to assigned activities.

**Position: Accountant (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 5 years work experience and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and budgetary principles, considerate knowledge of computers and their application in financial and accounting system, ability to prepare clear financial statement, establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts, use professional judgment, ability to plan, organize and meet rigid schedules and demanding timelines and seasonal workloads.

**Position: Information Technology Technician (1)**  
**Qualification:** Must have 5 years of experienced and training and a college graduate in Computer science, responsible for installing, maintaining computer hardware, software, networks, have proficient knowledge in computer hardware and software systems and programs, computer networks, network administration and network installations, computer troubleshooting, team building skills, analytical and problem solving skills, decision making skills, effective verbal, presentation and listening communication skills, effective written communication skills, computer skills including the ability to operate graphics and website development programs at a highly proficient level, good time manage.

**Position: Information Technology Assistant (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years of experience and training and must be a college graduate of computer applications and operating systems, PC hardware and trouble shooting, repair procedures, principles and practices of computer and telephone support services, computer hardware and software applications, familiar with information technology policies and procedures, computer operations processing and procedures, communicate clearly and easily with user and vendors of varying levels of technical expertise.

**Position: Project Engineer/Facility Maintenance Manager (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 10 years of experienced and training, college graduate, is responsible to ensure that all LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort facilities are maintained in the highest of standards in their operation, assists in implementation and coordination of maintenance, repair, renovations of Company owned and leased facilities, monitors contractors compliance to standards for various Company buildings, conducts initial review and evaluates bids for compliance with specifications, report building maintenance needs, respond appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise, manage and supervise and coordinates the work of the staff and the work of contractors, communicate clearly and concisely, maintain adequate inventory, preventive maintenance and repairs of equipment.

**Position: Supervisor, Electrician (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Have 7 years of training and experienced, and a college graduate, must have electrical trade qualifications, complies and adheres to the Occupational Safety and Health and Standards and practices, excellent communication and team building skills, must have computer systems skills, perform electrical work as required within their capabilities, maintaining a high standard of workmanship and abide by local statutes, performs skilled electrical installations, undertake modifications to plan & equipment repair electronic components of electrical equipment as required for continued operation, attend to production machinery breakdowns as required.

**Position: Mechanic Engineer (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of training and experienced, must have graduate degree, is responsible for all mechanical installations maintenance programs, stress analysis, piping, process plants layout and mechanical building services, responsible in power plant engines and generations, evaluates equipment performance and operating conditions, proficient in the planning and control of work in a multi project, deadline driven environment, deep and thorough understanding of applicable regulatory requirements and industry practices, assumes accountability for the quality of mechanical engineering work.

**Position: HVAC Technician (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 7 years of experience and training, must have specialized knowledge to analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control, sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste, repair replace needs necessary to maintain equipment and systems, install heating, air conditioning, refrigeration systems and related equipment for the propose of providing comfort inside facilities, maintains tools.

**Position: Building Maintenance (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 3 years of working experience and training, must have standard maintenance skills and the ability to apply that knowledge safely in a structured environment, skill in operating maintenance and carpentry tools and equipments, activities and decisions, requires independent actions, judgment in solving common problems, must have tolerance for exposure to unpleasant elements, be able to positively interact with fellow workers, maintains and repairs a variety of building facilities and provides service for common mechanical, electrical, and building system devices.

**Position: Assistant Manager, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of experience and training in golf industry, Must be able to communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, inspect golf equipment, structures, or materials, work with the public, assist others, monitor events, coordinates the work and activities of others, develop and build teamwork, knowledge of a second language is a plus, knowledge of the golf sport and rules is a must, generally work a flex schedule, often deal with unpleasant, angry or discourteous customers, work in a group or as part of a team, provide directions to customers, make sure that the customers follow golf etiquette and rules.

**Position: Supervisor, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years experienced and training and working in a golf industry, must keep things running smoothly, provide information about and the services the Company provides, keep equipment in working order, explain how to use equipment safely, provide information about rules, record details of attendance, reservations, make sure that people follow rules, communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, must be pleasant, neat in appearance, must be punctual and reliable, ability to work well with the public is very important, knowledge of the golf sport, responsible for work outcomes and results of other attendants.

**Position: Operations/Marshall (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have training and experience in the field of golf industry, must knowledge of the rules of the golf game is a must, ensures that an adequate pace of play is maintained, makes the golf game more enjoyable for everyone, enforces rules and regulations and control golf play on the golf course, enforces etiquette related to golf course usage, golf playing equipment and its recommended use, perform duties with significant independence, establish and maintain cooperative relationships with those in the course of the work.

**Position: Supervisor, Landscape (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 7 years of experienced and training in the field of a golf course industry, must oversees the landscaping activities and supervises all landscaping personnel, work required judgment and initiative, planning, scheduling, organizing and directing work, training personnel, teaches and enforces safety regulations, monitors jobs both indoors and outdoors to ensure quality and compliance with job standards, performs duties of a landscaper, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, considerable external and or internal contacts to carry out responsibilities.

**Position: Supervisor, Greens keeper (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 7 years of training and experienced, must have worked preferably at a hotel and golf industry, establishes and maintain and repair programs for the golf course and the hotel, evaluates and determines the need for and scope of emergency repairs and supervises staff and contractors in performing work, establishes procedures governing employee and customer's safety, perform grounds maintenance, perform preventive maintenance to the equipment, applies insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers maintains and operate irrigation system, experienced and knowledgeable in tractor operation and mowing.

**Position: Greens keeper (14)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, knowledge of methods and materials used in grounds and landscaped area knowledge of and ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to operate trucks, light motorized equipment, physical strength, stamina and agility, assists in the construction of new greens, tees, and fairways, lays sod, and seeds tees, greens and fairways.

**Position: Nursery Workers (4)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, performs routine maintenance on equipment, move containerized shrubs, plants, greens, using wheelbarrows, carts, shovel or tractors, maintain grounds and landscaping, haul and spread topsoil, fertilizer, peat moss and other materials to condition soil, requires to be reliable, responsible, and dependable, pleasant to work with, displays good natured and cooperative attitude.

**Position: Machinist (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 5 years of experience and training, must have overall knowledge working with machines, of machines, knowledge of a machine structure, performs routine maintenance on equipment, determine when and what kind of maintenance is needed, requires physical activities and considerable use of the arms, legs and moving your whole body.

**Position: Fabricator & Assembler (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 10 years of training and experience, must be able to fabricates, assembles, installs, and repairs sheet metal products and equipment on the basis of knowledge of system operation, may work with aluminum, galvanized steel, stainless steel, or other sheet metal stock, frequent to constant standing, walking throughout shift on all types of surfaces, maintains a safe work environment must be able to plan, organize, must be able to read and understand technical information, manuals, material safety data sheets, work order.

**Position: Heavy Equipment Machinist (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of training and experience, performs skilled tasks in the mechanical repair and maintenance of heavy trucks, earth moving, and related construction equipment including road graders, knowledge of hazards and safety precautions of the trade, operation and maintenance requirements of heavy duty construction equipment, work cooperatively with other employees, work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others, performs incidental welding operations on equipment.

**Position: Golf Cart Mechanic (2)**  
**Qualification:** high school diploma, 3 years technical training or experienced in mechanical, dismantle engines, using hand tools and examine parts for defects, test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, perform routine maintenance such as cleaning and oiling parts, honing cylinders and tuning ignition system, ability to demonstrate good judgment when dealing with guests or other personnel, able to lift/carry supplies or equipment with frequent reaching, stooping, bending, and kneeling, extensive walking and standing.

**Drop off your resume at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road.**  
**May submit resume online at: mada@laoalabay.com**  
**WE ACCEPT APPLICATIONS UP TO FEBRUARY 24, 2012.**  
**NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE**

EEOC: No need to show bad faith by Grand Hotel

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has asserted that it does not need to show that there was bad faith on the part of Saipan Grand Hotel in order for it to seek a new trial in the sexual harassment case it filed against the hotel and which it lost in December.

EEOC counsel Derek W. Li said that if Grand Hotel had timely disclosed Melinda Javier as a witness, then the EEOC would be able to conduct a much more thorough investigation, discovery, and depositions to bring the relevant evidence and witnesses to trial.

Since the late disclosure substantially interfered with the EEOC's full and fair presentation of its case at trial, a new trial is warranted, said Li.

Javier had testified during the trial that she saw Michelle Bunoan and her alleged harasser, former Grand Hotel restaurant manager Roberto "Tom" Alegre, hugging each other in two separate occasions.

Alegre, who is now based in the Philippines, insists that he had a consensual relationship with Bunoan.

On Dec. 20, 2011, the jury returned a verdict in favor of Grand Hotel. Last month, EEOC filed the motion for a new trial.

Grand Hotel lawyer Steven P. Pixley said that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona allowed Javier's testimony because the district court has broad discretion in permitting or excluding the testimony of witnesses not appearing on witness lists.

Pixley asserted that EEOC's assault on Javier's credibility is not supported by evidence.

Pixley said that, on Dec. 6, 2011 he learned that Javier had relevant evidence directly impeaching the sworn deposition and prior written statements of Bunoan.

Accordingly, Pixley said, the EEOC was advised of this new witness during a recess of the pre-trial conference in this civil proceeding on Dec. 7, 2011. That same day, he advised the court that he intended to call Javier during the trial.

In addition, Pixley said, on Dec. 8, 2011, he caused a letter to be delivered to EEOC counsel confirming his intent to call Javier as an impeachment witness.

Pixley said that Javier appeared at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Dec. 10, 2011 for an interview with the EEOC counsel that lasted about an hour. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

As sweet as Candyland!

TAGS, a turtle conservation non-profit group, will be hosting the Candyland Party at Godfather's Bar on Feb. 24 at 7:30pm.

The group is taking inspiration from the Hasbro classic Candyland for what's sure to be the best party around! Enjoy prizes, silent auction, "crowd favorite" date auction and more as throngs of costumed merrymakers party the night away in blue, purple, and cotton candy!

Five dollars gets you in the door for cheap drinks and good times. Come in costume (or not), bring cash for the auction, and

prepare your liver for Candyland Saipan 2012!

Candyland sponsors include TAGS, Godfather's Bar, PIC, DFS, Monika's Furniture, Docomo Pacific, Seventh-day Adventist, Marpac, Marianas Trekking, Serenity Salon & Spa, Marianas Resort & Spa, IT&E, Casa Urashima, Megabyte, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Sweet Escape.

As Sweet as Candyland is coordinated by Bernard Rivera and will feature the Godfather's band and emcee Nola Hix taking everyone through the night!



MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Friday, February 17, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel, Tinian, MP 96952.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Swearing In of New Board Members
  3. Roll Call
  4. Adoption of Agenda
  5. Adoption of Minutes – January 19, 2012
- 2) Public Comments**
- 3) Committee Reports**
  1. Finance
  2. Personnel
- 4) Old Business**
- 5) New Business**
  1. Printing of Customs Forms
  2. Tourism Master Plan
- 6) Executive Session**
- 7) Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce  
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



# Healthcare corporation aims to jumpstart campaign vs NCDs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will put non-communicable diseases, or NCDs, among its top priorities that need to be addressed through effective campaigns to combat the problem.

In last week's roundtable discussion with representatives of various groups and community organizations, Roxanne Diaz, director of Public Health Services, said she aims to create a CNMI NCD Alliance Group that will spearhead all efforts against non-communicable diseases.

With \$150,000 in federal funding to combat NCDs in the Commonwealth, Diaz asked the help of community groups for the corporation to come up with proactive strategies and actions that will effectively work in both small and large villages on the three islands.

Speaking before 14 participants in the roundtable discussion, Diaz presented a work plan and budget on how the funding could support specific programs related to the prevention of non-

communicable diseases.

It was agreed that the "alliance group" will conduct pocket meetings in villages to encourage greater participation from all sectors before a concrete plan of action is finalized.

The Pacific Islands Health Officers Association had declared a regional state of health emergency in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands due to the epidemic of NCDs such as diabetes, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease, stroke, gout, arthritis, and depression.

In the Commonwealth, health officials emphasized the urgent need to adopt changes in the people's lifestyle to address the spread of these non-communicable diseases. The island culture and some traditional family practices are also noted as major factors in the increasing number of affected patients and the major reason for the high mortality rates on the islands.

The then-Department of Public Health earlier reported that 71 percent of adults in the Commonwealth Health Center have diabetes and two out of every three medical referrals in the CNMI are for non-

communicable diseases that are treated in off-island medical facilities.

The department said that from 1993 to 2005, the oral cancer rate among Chamorros on island increased by 27.9 percent. The increase was at a higher rate of 43.1 percent among Carolinians. This is due to tobacco chewing, which remains rampant among islanders.

Diaz described NCD problem as of "great magnitude" and urged group members to continue "make a noise" about this issue in "clearer and louder" forms. She also pointed out the need to have some form of "emergency declaration" that will aid in effective mobilization.

According to the roundtable participants, NCDs are the result of people's poor education about health issues and people's lack of accessibility to a healthy food supply. An example is a San Roque resident who has no other options where to buy foods other than the few stores located near his house. This lack of transportation in many areas on island helps contribute to the NCD problem, they said.



Members of the Izoku Kai Bereaved Group from the Shiga Prefecture in Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Japan group makes pilgrimage to Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Twenty-five members of the Izoku Kai Bereaved Group from the Shiga Prefecture in Japan visited the CNMI last week for a pilgrimage to pray for their loved ones.

The group, which arrived on Feb. 6, also went to Tinian on Feb. 7 for a peace ceremony. Their trip was coordinated by Pacific Development Inc.

On Tuesday last week, the group visited Garapan Elementary School where they presented a basketball donation to the staff and students.

School principal Paulette Sablan and vice principal Leila Yumul welcomed the group,

along with the Chamorro and Carolinian bilingual class students, and thanked them for their donation.

"The group expressed how much they appreciated the students performing the local indigenous dances, especially the colorful Carolinian beads they received as a gift from Garapan Elementary School," PDI director Gordon Marciano told *Saipan Tribune*.

The visiting group, led by chair Takayuki Matsui, went to pray on Feb. 9 at the Japanese Memorial in Marpi for all those who perished during the war. Matsui recounted that he was only 7 years old when his father passed away during the war.

Inoue Shizuyo, one of the

group members who visited the CNMI for the first time, shared a prayer for her grandfather.

Shizuyo's grandmother, Zushi Kazue, made some 2,000 paper cranes in memory of her husband, Taniguchi Kihei, and all those who sacrificed their lives because of the war.

"Ms. Inoue Shizuyo apologized that her grandmother was unable to make it to Saipan as she is now 93 years old," added Marciano.

Matsui expressed his appreciation to the Marianas Visitors Authority for their warm hospitality and the Division of Parks and Recreation for the upkeep of the Japanese Peace Memorial.

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<sup>3</sup> The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain the cooler is \$100 (or just \$5 with direct deposit). Accounts with a zero balance for 30 consecutive days will be closed automatically. You will receive the cooler as a gift when you mention this offer at any First Hawaiian Bank branch and open a new (not converted) personal checking account. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. Limit of one cooler per customer or account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires February 29, 2012, or when supplies are exhausted.



# MBA student makes it to scholarship semis

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A junior student at Marianas Baptist Academy was among the thousands of semi-finalists chosen for the 2012 academic scholarship of the National Society of High School Scholars.

Sixteen-year-old Kristine Joy Manacop Leynes, who was granted membership to the honor society for outstanding high school students worldwide, said Friday that she initially couldn't believe the good news she received last week.

"It's the first time I've been offered a chance for a scholarship," Leynes told *Saipan Tribune*. "I received the email but I didn't really believe it until they mailed me the actual papers."

The daughter of Ruben and Lota Leynes, the younger Leynes said she only received the letter from NSHSS advisory board chair Claes Nobel on Tuesday.

The scholarship and winners will be notified in April. Scholarships will be presented at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C. in August.

Leynes said she's excited and nervous at the same time as there are about 10,000 high

school students who are competing for the 10 semi-finalist slots to receive \$5,000 scholarships and 65 semi-finalists who will be selected for the \$1,000 National Scholar Awards.

Leynes has been a regular in various competitions on the island, including the National Forensic League and Mathcourt contests. She is a member of the school's volleyball team and drama club and became a member of the American Memorial Park's Youth



Leynes

Conservation Corps in 2010.

All NSHSS semi-finalists are asked to write a 500-word essay about their college plans and ways to make a difference in the world to complete their application process.

Leynes, who wants to major in either forensic science or pharmacy in college, said she plans to discuss in her essay how forensics would help discover the person/s responsible for the death of the Godfather's bartender and the person who raped a 25-year-old

Asian female last month.

"I just want to put that person who's doing all these things somewhere far away so they won't be able to do that anymore," said Leynes, who plans to attend college at the University of California in San Diego.

Leynes also noted that the cultural diversity on Saipan would prove to be an asset for her over all the thousands of high school students competing for the NSHSS scholarship.

"It's a different perspective from the mainlanders. I want to use that to my advantage for this scholarship," she said.

## A dinner date with Aida at Charley's Cabaret

The Friends of the Arts will be presenting Elton John and Tim Rice's Broadway musical *Aida* as its special Valentine's Day program today, Feb. 14, with follow-up performances on Feb. 18 and 19. All performances will take place at PIC's Charley's.

The Valentine's Day program will feature a six-course plated meal and an evening of enchanting music and theater. Dinner will be served beginning at 6pm, with the play to begin at 7:30pm. The cost for this evening of fine food and

entertainment will be \$50 per person for FOA members and \$65 per person for non-members. The cost for season ticket holders will be \$40 per person. Tables for 2, 4 or 6 can be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis, as they remain available, by calling Frank Gibson at 287-7476 or e-mailing him at flgibson@yahoo.com. Reservations are required and, because of the FOA's cost commitment to PIC, reservations must be considered as a commitment.

Performances without the meal, but with all of the fine music and acting, will follow on Feb. 18 and 19 with the play beginning at 7pm. Admission for these programs will be \$12 for FOA adult members, \$15 for non-members and \$8 for students. These performances are included with season tickets with no additional charge.

Join FOA for another enjoyable production by the Friends of the Arts. Treat your sweetheart to a memorable evening this Valentine's Day. **(FOA)**

## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 14, 2000

#### Pierce appointed liaison to House committee

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Lynn Knight has appointed board director Richard A. Pierce to work with the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations in his capacity as co-chairman of the Government Relations Committee. In a letter to House Speaker Benigno Fitial, Ms. Knight said the Chamber remains committed to assist the lawmakers in their efforts to improve the CNMI-Federal relations and informing the U.S. lawmakers about the island's position on important economic issues.

#### INS rejects visa waiver for Filipino accountants

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has rejected a request from the Philippine Consulate here for a Guam-only, single entry visa waiver for Filipino accountants taking the CPA certifying board examination in the territory in May. This was learned from Consul Julia Heidemann who said Saturday her office will coordinate with Capitol Hill for possible arrangements that can be made to allow Filipino accountants in the CNMI take the board examination in May. According to Heidemann, INS officials cited existing policies relating to the granting of U.S. visa to foreign nationals which require application and processing on their point of origin.

Feb. 14, 2001

#### SGMA gearing up for complete accreditation

In preparation for association membership accreditation by internationally recognized independent monitoring groups, the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association will conduct its last round of intensive training before the full implementation of its Code of Conduct. A Code of Conduct Training Conference will be held from March 5-7, 2001, where all 31 SGMA member companies will receive instruction from both local and federal officials and private companies. Presenters will include officials from Region IX, US Department of Labor-OSHA Division, US Department of Labor-Wage & Hour Compliance Division, the CNMI Department of Public Safety's Fire Division, the Division of Environmental Quality, 3M Corporation and Safety 1st Systems (Saipan), Inc.

#### CDA loans fall 74 percent

Average quarterly loans approved by the Commonwealth Development Authority dropped 75 percent in 2000 compared with the volume of credit applications okayed during the previous year. A record of CDA loans compiled by the Central Statistics Division revealed the government's prime lending agency released only a quarterly average of \$428,341 amount of credits last year, from the average \$1.625 per three-month period in 1999. CDA approved only about \$60,000 worth of credit applications in the third quarter of 2000; \$1.062 million during the April-June period; and some \$163,500 in the first three months of last year.

Feb. 14, 2002

#### PCB treatment resumes but not without EPA restrictions

The US Environmental Protection Agency has imposed certain restrictions on the treatment of PCB-contaminated soil in Tanapag, allegedly slowing down the process that resumed this week. Michelle Rogow, of EPA Region IX, said the operation by the ITD machine was allowed to continue at a much lower rate, while the treatment is being considered for final approval. From the previous 16 tons of soil treated per hour, the maximum amount of soil that can be treated in a given hour now is 13 tons. In a telephone interview, Rogow said the Army Corps and its contractor may only treat up to 7,500 tons of soil, pending EPA's final approval.

#### Protecting kids from porn on the Web

The debate over freedom of speech or censorship of pornography has been raging for many decades now. The abundance of pornographic material on the Internet has only served to add to the controversy of this question. With the emergence of this material on the Internet, pornography has become more prevalent and available than it ever has been before. This being said the issue grows among those that feel censorship is necessary, such as groups that feel freedom of speech and expression are paramount and as a result are against censorship. A new facet of this issue has emerged which is the protection of children.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB NO.: ITB12-CJPA/NUTSE-049**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 12, 2012      TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"LEASE OF AN OFFICE SPACE FOR THE NURTURING  
TRANSFORMATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ KEIKO ODASIRO  
BOARD PRESIDENT,  
NURTURING TRANSFORMATIVE &  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB NO.: ITB12-CRM-050**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 12, 2012      TIME: 1:30 P.M.

**"LEASE OF AN OFFICE SPACE FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT - ROTA BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ RITA C. CHONG-DELA CRUZ  
ADMINISTRATOR - CRM

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP12-DOF/EDP-029**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"CNMI TAX SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND TECHNICAL  
SUPPORT SERVICES FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,  
DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THRU THURSDAY EXCEPT CNMI HOLIDAYS).

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **MARCH 05, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME** AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, DANDAN.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ LARISSA C. LARSON  
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Friday, February 17, 2012** beginning at 10:00am at Tinian Dynasty Hotel, Tinian MP 96952

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I PRELIMINARIES**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Election of Officers
  5. Adoption of Minutes
 

January 20, 2012
February 1, 2012
- II ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**
- III CONSULTANT'S REPORTS**
  1. Investment Consultant Report
  2. Board Consultant Report
- IV LEGAL COUNSEL**
  - NMHC RFP
  - DPL/CHC - real property
- V OLD BUSINESS**
  - Alternative Investment
  - CHC
    - a. Electronic Health Record (E.H.R)
    - b. Financial Request
  - MPLT Resolution 11-06
  - IPS- draft
- VI COMMUNICATIONS**
- VII NEW BUSINESS**
- VIII MISCELLANEOUS**
  - By Laws - draft
  - DPL
- IX ADJOURNMENT**

*At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.*

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero  
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP12-MOT-014**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"A/E SERVICES - INDEFINITE DELIVERY,  
INDEFINITE QUANTITY (IDIQ) CONTRACT FOR  
THE ISLAND OF TINIAN"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, OR AT THE TINIAN MAYOR'S OFFICE, TINIAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THRU THURSDAY EXCEPT CNMI HOLIDAYS).

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO JOE DELA CRUZ OR FAX TO (670) 433-1819 NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 05, 2012.**

PROJECT FOR THIS RFP MAY BE FUNDED THROUGH LOCAL AND FEDERAL FUNDS. AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ RAMON M. DELA CRUZ  
MAYOR OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S



## NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The Department of the Navy (Navy) announces its intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for a Live-Fire Training Range Complex (LFTRC) on Guam to Support the Guam Military Relocation.

The SEIS will evaluate the potential environmental consequences that may result from construction and operation of a live-fire training range complex and associated infrastructure on Guam to support the Guam Military Relocation. The SEIS supplements the Final EIS for the "Guam and CNMI Military Relocation; Relocating Marines from Okinawa, Visiting Aircraft Carrier Berthing, and Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force" dated July 2010. The Record of Decision for the Final EIS was signed on September 20, 2010, and published in the Federal Register on September 30, 2010 (Volume 75, Number 189, Page 60438). The SEIS is being prepared for the limited purpose of supplementing the 2010 Final EIS.

The proposed action that will be analyzed in the SEIS is to construct and operate a live-fire training range complex on Guam. The complex is intended to allow for the simultaneous use of all firing ranges to support individual service member training on Guam for the relocated Marines. The Navy has preliminarily identified five alternatives for the proposed action: two adjacent to Route 15/Andersen South, and three at the Naval Magazine (NAVMAG). The SEIS will also consider the No Action Alternative.

The Navy will host public open-house scoping meetings on Guam to obtain comments on the project scope and identify specific environmental concerns or topics for consideration in the SEIS. The public is encouraged to attend the open-house scoping meetings, which will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

- Saturday, March 17, 2012, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, University of Guam Field House, Mangilao,
- Monday, March 19, 2012, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Southern High School, Santa Rita,
- Tuesday, March 20, 2012, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Yigo Gymnasium, Yigo.

Informational posters will be displayed and subject matter experts will be available during the open-house to discuss the proposed action, to answer questions, and to accept comments from the public. Written comments may be submitted at the scoping meetings. A Chamorro interpreter will be available. Interested agencies, individuals, and groups unable to attend the scoping open house are encouraged to submit comments by April 6, 2012. Mailed comments should be postmarked no later than April 6, 2012, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) to ensure they are considered.

**Mail comments to : Joint Guam Program Office Forward**  
**P.O. 153246**  
**Santa Rita, Guam 96915**

An electronic comment form can also be obtained at [http://bit.ly/Guam\\_LFTRC\\_SEIS](http://bit.ly/Guam_LFTRC_SEIS) and submitted via email. Government agencies, private-sector organizations, the general public, and other interested parties are encouraged to provide written comments for consideration in the Draft SEIS. The Navy will consider all comments received as they develop the Draft SEIS.

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE

In accordance with Public Law 5-33, Section 4(b) (3) the Public Purpose Land Exchange Authorization Act, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into an exchange agreement to certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the exchange of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 5-33, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The purposed of the land exchange is to acquire a private property for public purpose. The private property is described as TR 21897-4R/W, containing an area of 1,683 square meters, more or less, situated in Takpochao, Saipan.
- ii. The public land to be exchange is described as Lot 052 L 01, containing an area of 5,923 square meters more or less, located in Obyan, Saipan.
- iii. The private property is owned by Ms. Benedicta C. Tenorio a resident of Saipan.
- iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.
- v. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before February 29, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

## NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN MA 'ATULAKAN TANO ' PUBLIKU

Sigun gi halom I Lai Publiku 5-33 Seksiona 4 (b)(3), Public Purpose Land Exchange Act, I Depattamenton I Tano' Publiku guini ha nã 'i notisia i intension-ña para u ma 'atulaikan pumalu na tano ' publiku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hãyi manentiresão na petsona siha gi halom I publiku henerã siña munna 'hãlom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i propositu siha para I uma 'atulaikan I tano ' publiku. Komu mäs mapribeniyi ginen Lai Publiku 5-33, pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimãnda na para u mapuplika.

- i. I maproponen i ma 'atulaikan tano ' para uma 'chule I tano ' private para uson publiku. I diskripsion I tineteka na tano ' komo TR 21897-4R/W, kinensisiste i ãria 1,683 na dinankulon tano, potlumenus mäs, gaige giya Takpochao, Saipan.
- ii. I diskripsion i tano ' publiku Lot 052 L 01, kinensisite i ãria 5,923 square meters, potlumenus mã, gaige giya Obyan, Saipan.
- iii. I dwennon tano ' si Sinora Benedicta C. Tenorio, residente Saipan.
- iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma 'atulaikan tano ' siña machule ' gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano ' Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.
- v. I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano ' Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi 'i opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma 'atulakan tano ' publiku antes osino gi dia Febreru 29, 2012 gi Depattamenton Tano '.

## ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL SIIWELIL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Alléghúl Toulap 5-33 Section 4 (b)(3), Bwulasiyool Ammwil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe siiwel eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóóka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghighiir, aweewe, aingiingi reel pomwol siiwel yeel. Alléghú Toulap ye 5-3 Section 4 (b)(3) e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáari TR 21897-4R/W, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew (1,683 square meters), elapeló me ngäre eghús, elo Takpochao. Tilghial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngäre óubwe ghuley fischey.
- ii. Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot 052 L 01, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew 5,923 lapel falúw ye, elo Obyan, Seipél.
- iii. Ms. Benedicta C. Tenorio elollo , Seipél, yaal falúw ye ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.
- iv. Tilghial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel mwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building loll Tuturam, Seipel.
- v. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Mãaischigh 29, 2012, mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipé.



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES Division of Fish and Wildlife

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified businesses to develop a working database for the management of fisheries survey data for the Division of Fish and Wildlife under federal grants.

The contract company will, through recommendations from the interested parties, help develop, implement and maintain the database for a time period of up to one year after the finish of the database.

Quotes should take into consideration the following tasks:

1. Design and create a relational database using Microsoft Access to store survey data.
2. Conduct interviews with the interested groups (biologists and technicians) to understand their needs for data entry and procurement.
3. Create forms for all database tables to enter, modify and view survey data.
4. Create sample queries for the database and provide assistance to staff to extend these queries and write new queries as needed.
5. Create sample reports for the database and provide assistance to staff to extend these reports and write new reports as needed.
6. Import historical spreadsheet data into the database. This will be achieved by writing a Visual Basic script for each format of spreadsheet (approximately 7 formats). The script will read its matching spreadsheets and insert the data into the database. Historical data includes:
  - a. 7 different formats of spreadsheets
  - b. Approximately 50 files
  - c. Approximately 1000 lines per file
7. Provide technical assistance for a period of up to one year subsequent to the completion of the database.

Cost and experience:

Price will be a consideration and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit of the proposal. Furthermore, experience is more important than price and the Government reserves the right to award the project to others than the lowest priced proposer. Preference of experience will be granted to parties with a history of data management of similar, biological data. This may include work with other governmental agencies such as the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resource Management or environmental non-governmental organizations.

Discussions will be conducted with the responsible bidders who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Bidders shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing bidders.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the Procurement Regulation 3-301 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License in order to sign a contract.

Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation. No contract will be awarded to an offeror if the Division of Fish and Wildlife has previously found that the offeror did not fully and properly perform on any previous contract with the CNMI government. Closing date for submitting proposals will be February 28, 2012.

Proposal can be submitted to:  
 Division of Fish and Wildlife  
 Lower Base Rd.  
 PO Box 10007  
 Saipan, MP, 96950

or by FAX (670) 664 6056  
 or by Email [jeremiahplassjohnson.cnmidfw@yahoo.com](mailto:jeremiahplassjohnson.cnmidfw@yahoo.com)



# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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*Los Angeles Times*

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## Those mudslinging Republicans

This was the week Mitt Romney should have sealed the Republican presidential nomination. He was expected to win Tuesday's caucuses in Colorado, to win or tie in Minnesota and to do credibly well in Missouri. Instead, the former Massachusetts governor managed to lose all three contests to Rick Santorum, a candidate who has spent most of the campaign stuck near the bottom of the polls.

Romney has done well in states such as New Hampshire and Florida, where moderate voters make up a significant share of the Republican electorate. But conservative states just aren't having him yet, especially those that hold caucuses, which tend to draw only the most committed voters.

At this point, the GOP looks more like a collection of warring tribes than a cohesive political force. Fiscal conservatives don't have much use for social conservatives. Libertarians and moderates don't get along with either camp. "We are factionalized now as a party," lamented Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn. "We have to come together."

She's right. Why? Because the long and relentlessly negative campaign is making all the GOP candidates less likable to independent voters, who will probably determine the outcome of this fall's general election.

An ABC News-Washington Post poll released this week measured the phenomenon, asking voters: As you learn more about these candidates, do you like them more, or like them less?

In the case of Romney, 52 percent of voters said the more they knew about him, the less they liked him. That's not surprising after a month of unflattering revelations about Romney's business career and his investment accounts overseas, but it's not a good sign.

Newt Gingrich fared even worse: 60 percent of voters said the more they learned about him, they less they liked.

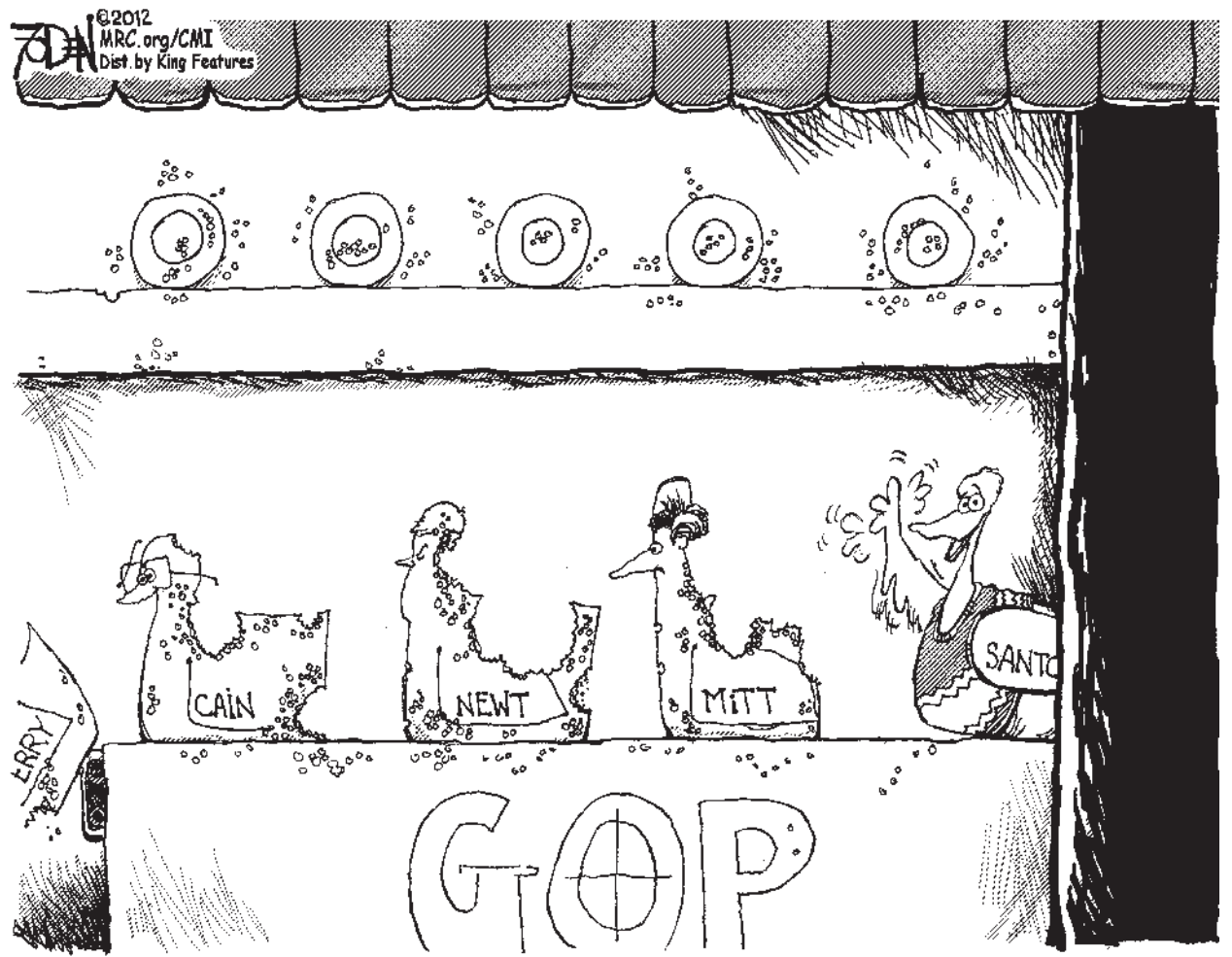
When the survey was conducted, the pollsters didn't think enough of Santorum's chances to include his name in the question. As recently as last month, 20% of Americans said they had never even heard of the former Pennsylvania senator. But among Republicans who recognized Santorum's name, the general impression was positive; unlike Gingrich, he does not draw automatic opposition from a big chunk of the GOP electorate. That can be attributed in part to the fact that up to now the other candidates haven't needed to attack him.

Now, in the wake of his victories, Santorum will be on the receiving end of some serious hazing at the hands of the Romney campaign.

It's already begun. In recent days, the Romney campaign dispatched one of its spokesmen, former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, to warn GOP voters that Santorum is a Washington insider who liked the place so much that after he lost his Senate seat, he stayed in the hated capital as a lobbyist.

But Santorum, whose choirboy demeanor doesn't conceal his taste for bare-knuckled combat, struck right back. "Gov. Romney—'Mr. Outsider'—was for government takeover in health-

See **REPUBLICANS** on Next Page



THE DAY RICK SANTORUM DISCOVERED SWEATER VESTS AREN'T BULLETPROOF.

## Love, the ultimate indulgence

It is perhaps one of the truisms of human existence that on the day we are born when we ascend into the journey of life, we simultaneously descend unto death. Love as the surrender to the fullness of life and the finality of death becomes the hallmark of life's full celebration and the final achievement into oblivion from whence we came.

Embodiment of life entails the achievement of death. Viewed this way, this Love Day is a few meters broader than the mere sentiment of roses, the addictive flavor of chocolate, and the promise of magic in everything.

This day also conjures pictures of bacchanalian scenes in Caligula's court, of red wine poured into flesh and lips salaciously lapping the juice of the vine from the surfaces it is strategically poured into, with lights dimmed on Valentino's quarters. Perhaps of less cinematic vividness are the normal plans on Valentine's Day, still seen in this era of female emancipation as the male's prerogative to tickle Valentina's fancy and trickle down patriarchy's dandy.

We will leave the raving hormones and the raging libidos to the graciously young but the gratuitously aging beg for a more balanced recollection of where one has been to the clarity of the destination where one is heading. We wax philosophical when the day calls us to wallow in hip-deep romance!

They may have been a long way from Ireland's Tipperary, but the British penchant for adventure, in geographical space and the typography of the mind, fuels the literary imagination of the English language now, invading the nooks and crannies of the global soul. Chinese students read American Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. (My name is spelled "Hemi" at SAU, and my students quickly dubbed me Hemingwei.)

The image of the old man and the sea caught our fancy, not only because Saipan has an Old Man by the Sea island, but because in the story plot, an old Cuban named Santiago ("St. James" in English, also Jaime in Basque Spanish), catchless for 85 days, finally hooks a marlin that will test his will and map a weeklong journey home amidst sharks, scavengers, and the old man's immense journey into his own soul!

The number 85 also marks the termination of our intentionally phased journey on increments of 17 years each (17 times 5 = 85), though we have given the sweet mystery of life an extra year to ice the cake. Our email address [jrvergara2031@aol.com](mailto:jrvergara2031@aol.com) heralds the year 2031 as our terminus when we shall be 86, and between then and now lies our own remaining journey, this old man and his sea!

Better at capturing the novel's plot, we borrow another writer's description: "Unable to tie the line fast to the boat for fear the fish would snap a taut line, the old man bears the strain of the line with his shoulders, back, and hands, ready to give slack should the marlin

By **JAIME VERGARA**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara ([jrvergara2031@aol.com](mailto:jrvergara2031@aol.com)) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



make a run." Imitation is indeed the best form of flattery.

"The fish pulls the boat all through the day, through the night, through another day, and through another night. It swims steadily northwest until at last it tires and swims east with the current. The entire time, Santiago endures constant pain from the fishing line. Whenever the fish lunges, leaps, or makes a dash for freedom, the cord cuts Santiago badly. Although wounded and weary, the old man feels a deep empathy and admiration for the marlin, his brother in suffering, strength, and resolve." Angst carries the day.

It is not our journey that is the object of this reflection, nor that of Hemingway's novel. It is the facticity of life's journey and its terminal achievement that fills our muse of life's supreme virtue, love. Of reality, of the authority of authenticity, of each one's own flesh-and-blood life, we live, we love, we die!

Beyond the Hollywood drum roll, and HANMI's awkward promotion to Nippon couples of romance with a pastoral chapel, the lady's laced floor length virginal gown and a royal black tux for the latent samurai gent, abetted by a stretched Humvee ride, Love Day in Garapan is about embracing the total reality of life as it is given (warts, woof and all), even in light of Emie Romero's homicide, injecting our passion to current contemporary demands, and pouring the compassionate strain of our selfhood into its waiting arms; we create ex nihilo, the mystery and wonder of existence and reformulate its essence in a world like Saipan rapidly expending its energy sans hope.

Our poetry escapes many. That's why we need a Valentine's Day to show this side of our nature and choice. Economics devoid of poetry only crunches numbers and reduces humanum into statistics; politics without compassion bares nepotistic patronage to a science. This day is not an escape into La-la-land. It is rather an invitation for the internal core of our lives to precede our reaching out for the spade and shovel to form and shape the logistical expressions of our dreams and aspirations.

Love day is molding flesh to spirit, the sensualization of the life force, and deciding to devour every morsel of it. Y'all have a loving feast on life today!



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

**Letters to the Editor****Change for true: Independents in 2012!**

I can see citizens are really starting to wake up and wanting change in the leadership, especially when there is a public declaration asking an African-American to run for office in the CNMI! What a revelation and it's one I didn't think I would live long enough to see. I can remember just a couple of elections ago when there was a full-page add saying "Vote for Locals Only." In fact, I know there was a time in the CNMI when it was unthinkable for a local person to publicly promote the leadership of a so-called outsider to run for office, especially an African-American. My, my, my, how times have changed!

But more important is the facts that led to the revelation of a public appeal for change in the leadership of the CNMI. I had predicted the hard times that were being pressed upon us in order to force us to accept the casino issue and I said then it was going to either unite the people for change or we were all going to lose our ability to control our government and our fate. Just like I predicted some five years or more ago, we are still staring at the casino issue that is about to be shoved down our throats. We have been victimized by party and power politics, leaving us with virtually one party that is dead set on casinos and nothing else and it doesn't matter that we have said no! The casino issue is the very reason we can't get started on course in a new, different, and better direction—economic stagnation for almost nine years is all we have to show.

The Democratic Party is in ICU, on life support, needing a brain and heart transplant and the Republican/Covenant Party is the only ruling party left so the people won't have a real and genuine choice in the next election, which I'm sure is why

**Mi Ultimus Adios**

Two weeks ago I had the privilege to walk in the footsteps of Jose Rizal in Fort Santiago. This has been my fifth trip to such a historical building. The last time I was there was in 1986, a week before the Philippine elections and it brought back memories. Then I read the *Saipan Tribune*. One letter writer labeled me a racist and a bigot. Normally I don't answer such charges as I am just being baited. My past in politics has taught me that whenever someone is labeled a racist or a bigot, it normally means the accuser has no logical argument or cannot win the argument. In order to do so he or she labels the other person a racist. It's childish.

About a month ago I noticed several racist *graffitied* walls in Susupe. My stomach turned. I went to Ace Hardware and bought paint and painted over them. I told no one. No one asked me to do it. I did it because I don't believe people should hate others. In the Bible it says if you hate man you cannot enter the Kingdom of God. To that person who wrote those anti-alien remarks, I would only say look at yourself. Don't blame aliens for all the economic woes on the island. Look at the government. People solve problems; governments don't. Governments normally aren't the solution, they are the problem. Look at ways to become wealthy and don't put the blame on others because you are not wealthy. Put your hands to work and your heart in God. The Lord will reward you.

I would ask the person who accused me of being a racist and bigot because of my remarks: Why didn't you paint over the graffiti? I had many taxi drivers thank me for doing so. They even were calling other drivers to come over to witness me painting. I may not agree with the taxi drivers' politics but I do agree with

**Insensitive**

I was shocked that the Republican Party would hold a fundraiser and rally while the community is reeling from a back-to-back murder and rape. How insensitive, uncaring, and arrogant to be talking about re-election when our people are afraid to step outside their own door. Instead of slapping each other on the back, these politicians should be figuring out ways to provide DPS with more than three working vehicles. Our islands need leadership, not the bumbling Bud Lite brigade.

**Isa Torres**  
Berkeley, California

there is a public and desperate outcry for new leadership. I just hope and pray that it was a cry for change that will be heard and heeded throughout the CNMI. I don't have to tell readers what it means when it comes to having a government being composed of, for, and by the people but with a one-party election on the horizon, it will be a government of, for & by the one party if the party wins. We all know the adverse consequences and the fear if you are not a member of the winning party, which is how the political power has been maintained in the hands of a few.

I have noticed that a lot of voters are really scared when they vote but they *must* start putting more faith in God and not their political connections with their boss, supervisor, and relatives to see them through and do what is best for the CNMI in the voting booth. If you are being pressured, just tell them "Don't worry, you got my vote," *but* you are *free* to change your mind in the voting booth. They can't see you and only an idiot would tell. We call it exercising the superb character attribute of civic virtue by putting your fellow citizens in the community and nation first, which is something every military personnel and every police officer does on a daily basis and we only need the average citizen to perform this feat once every two years!

I can easily predict that the next election will set the stage for big changes with a new beginning as many incumbents' heads have clearly been placed on the chopping block. It is becoming more and more obvious the people of the CNMI are sick and tired and want change. One thing I know for true, voters are well

their right to speak their voice without being called names or being insulted for their beliefs.

In February 1986, while living in the Philippines with my ex-wife, who was a Filipina, and my two daughters, I was working as a liaison in the military and living in Manila. I was part of a delegation that delivered President Reagan's resignation request to Marcos. Marcos wasn't too happy about it. That evening at 2am I was awoken by my telephone and my entire family was escorted out of the country due to a botched assassination plot on my family. I love the Philippines and I still go back despite what happened. My daughters were born there, their mother was a Filipina citizen, yet they cannot own land there. In 1974 the Laurel-Langley agreement gave them that right, but Marcos changed the Constitution to bar it. It's now up to my children and the Philippine government to decide what they want to do, not me.

Likewise, with John Davis stating I was unaware of the CNMI being a commonwealth, I would remind him that a commonwealth is only a form of government that exists to protect the welfare of the citizens as a whole rather than a small privileged class (like nobility and kings). It is nothing more than that, a form of government. The CNMI signed a Covenant with the U.S., which can be broken at any time unlike the four other commonwealths

**REPUBLICANS**

*From Page 10*

care, was for government takeover of the private sector in the Wall Street bailout," Santorum said Wednesday on CNN. "So Mr. Private Sector was Mr. Big Government."

In the coming mud fight, there are reasons to expect that Santorum will make a better showing than Gingrich. But mud fights, whatever the outcome, don't tend to build party unity.

In a Fox News poll last month, GOP voters ranked Santorum first among the candidates as a "true conservative," well ahead of Romney and Gingrich. And in the ABC-Washington Post poll, they ranked him roughly on par with Romney as "honest and trustworthy"—well ahead of Gingrich, whom only 7 percent considered the most honest. (Even most Gingrich supporters said they didn't consider him the most trustworthy candidate.)

Conservatives who want an alternative to Romney are still looking for the right champion. The month ahead is Santorum's chance to win that role.

aware of my prediction that the casinos were going to be forced down our throats and now they are sick and tired of hearing casinos for over eight years. Anyone in office that was and still is closely associated with casinos can literally kiss their seats goodbye. It seems Diego Benavente was the only one smart enough to get out before the ship of the past and present politics (Covenant/Republican) completely sink, which they will do in the next election! *2012 will be the year of the Independents!*

**Ambrose M. Bennett**  
Kagman, Saipan

PS: I had stopped writing in the news to run my business but a very special person and leader in the CNMI said that he truly appreciated my letters and that I should keep writing. I couldn't ignore his encouragement given his immense statue in the local society. And no, it wasn't Deigo since I mentioned his name. I know the political fan club members and especially my critics will play with this statement which is why I won't disclose his name publicly because there will always be an idiot in the crowd. But I do want to thank him for his encouragement and support. I also want to thank Mr. Aldan and others for bringing to the forefront that we need change in the CNMI and for thinking so highly of me and others that they want us to run for public office to put the CNMI on the right course for prosperity and fulfillment of the American dream that locals voted for when they chose to become Chamorro and Carolinian Americans!

in the United States: Massachusetts, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky, which are unable to leave the Union. There are only 46 states in the U.S. and four Commonwealths.

It should also be noted that citizens of the CNMI cannot vote for the President, they do not have representation in Congress that has an official voting status, and do not have a senator in the Senate. If you state that you should have all the rights here in the CNMI as mentioned in your rant about me being uneducated and that it is in the Constitution for you, then the citizens of the CNMI should have all the rights you have. I think you would agree with me on that?

If standing up for the rights of Chamorros, Carolinians, and those who are downtrodden makes me a bigot, I guess I am one. With that, I will be flying to Vietnam today to do an economic summit with several government officials on protecting the environment. Yesterday, I worked with a crew protecting the Mekong dolphin, fed dinner to orphans, and talked to government officials about protecting sea turtles. This is the fifth country in one month, three more to go.

**Keith Brooks**  
Laos

Arizona and Michigan hold primary elections on Feb. 28; Romney is expected to win Arizona easily, but Santorum is taking his blue-collar message to Michigan to try to stage another upset.

The most decisive day of this bitter campaign, though, is likely to be March 6, Super Tuesday, with seven primaries and three caucuses. Romney is expected to win Massachusetts and Virginia, and Gingrich hopes to win his native Georgia. But Santorum has a shot in Oklahoma and Tennessee—and all three are campaigning fiercely for the most important swing state on the list, Ohio.

After Super Tuesday, the question will be: Which of the non-Romney candidates should drop out, Santorum or Gingrich?

Republican strategists, weighing the candidates' strengths on the map, in campaign organization and in funding, believe Romney is still likely to outlast his opponents. But it will take him longer, cost him more and do more damage to his standing than a short campaign would have.






Millions of independent voters are tuning in to this campaign and learning about the potential Republican nominees—in some cases, for the first time. And many of them don't like what they see.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 84° ▼ 74°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78

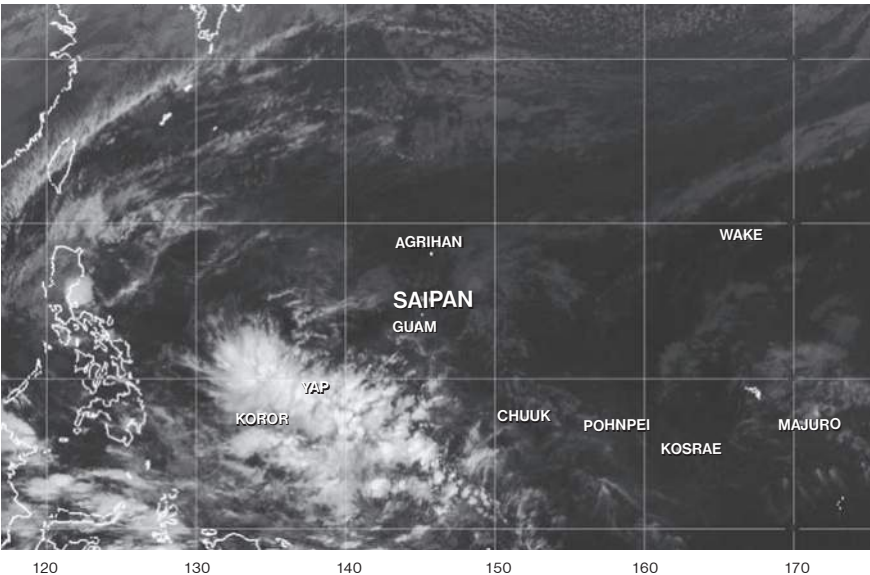
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲ 71 ▼ 66
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 41 ▼ 18
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 70 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 68
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 44
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 60
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 63
New York	Ice	▲ 45 ▼ 34
Osaka	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 37
Paris	Showers	▲ 42 ▼ 36
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 32
Rome	Sunny	▲ 46 ▼ 26
Salem	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 33
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 45
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 36 ▼ 22
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 37
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 37

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:32 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
6:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet	
11:54 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
7:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front drops west-southwestward from east of Iwo To island at 25N147E to beyond 130E at 20N. Patchy clouds and rain are found along and north of this boundary to beyond 25N. An old cold front extends southwestward from well northeast of Wake Island at 25N178E to 20N160E. Clouds and patchy rain are occurring along and up to 250 miles north of this boundary. A surface trough stretches northwestward from EQ144E through a circulation centered south of Yap at 6N140E to end near 8N137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are taking place over Yap and near Koror within 220 miles of a line from 9N137E to 4N150E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers well east of Saipan or within 140 miles of a line from 13N153E to 18N153E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers near and east of Majuro or within 230 miles of a line from 8N169E to 8N178E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Wednesday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:13 AM
Wednesday	12:29 AM 12:07 PM
Thursday	1:29 AM 1:04 PM
Friday	2:28 AM 2:03 PM
Saturday	3:23 AM 3:01 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
  - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Island Snapshots



**QUIZ NITE**  
A crowd puts their knowledge to the test as they tried to answer 40 questions during Saturday's "Quiz Nite," the Autism Society of the CNMI's signature fundraiser which also aims to increase awareness of autism.



Members of the team "Where is John Rogers?" receive a trophy for winning third place during Saturday's "Quiz Nite," the Autism Society of the CNMI's fundraiser which also aims to raise awareness of autism.



Rep. Joseph Palacios, third from left, waves to the crowd as he and four other Precinct 1 Republican candidates for the House of Representatives were introduced by precinct chairman Francisco Camacho, left, during Sunday afternoon's CNMI Republican Party fundraiser at the Garapan Fishing Base. From left, Camacho, House Speaker Eli Cabrera (partly hidden), Palacios, Ramon Dela Cruz, Richard Seman and Jose Limes.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Team "The Posse" receives a trophy for bagging second prize during the Autism Society of the CNMI's "Quiz Nite" fundraiser on Saturday. It donated its \$100 cash prize to the Autism Society.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



## BON VOYAGE

Colleagues of Tinian Dynasty Casino cage manager Luke Lu, seated second from left, hold a farewell party for him at the JC Cafe last Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012. They are joined by the incoming cage manager, Bharat Rajbhatt, seated third from left.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## STOPPING NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Representatives of various community groups and non-profit organizations discuss ways on how non-communicable diseases can be prevented and treated on the island during a roundtable discussion held last week. The Pacific Islands Health Officers Association had declared a regional state of health emergency in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands due to the epidemic of NCDs such as diabetes, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease, stroke, gout, arthritis, and depression.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

## WELCOME TO THE CHRISTIAN WORLD

Parents Rudolfo and Xiuqin Lazaro pose with their newly baptized baby, Xu Jojo Lazaro, at the JC Cafe on Tinian last Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





# Business

## Greece passes new austerity deal amid rioting

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)**—Greek lawmakers on Monday approved harsh new austerity measures demanded by bailout creditors to save the debt-crippled nation from bankruptcy, after rioters in central Athens torched buildings, looted shops and clashed with riot police.

The historic vote paves the way for Greece's European partners and the International Monetary Fund to release \$170 billion (euro130 billion) in new rescue loans, without which Greece would default on its mountain of debt next month and likely leave the eurozone—a scenario that would further roil global markets.

Lawmakers voted 199-74 in

favor of the cutbacks, despite strong dissent among the two main coalition members. A total 37 lawmakers from the majority Socialists and conservative New Democracy party either voted against the party line, abstained or voted present.

Sunday's clashes erupted after more than 100,000 protesters marched to the parliament to rally against the drastic cuts, which will ax one in five civil service jobs and slash the minimum wage by more than a fifth.

At least 45 businesses were damaged by fire, including several historic buildings, movie theaters, banks and a cafeteria, in the worst riot damage in Athens in years. Fifty police of-

ficers were injured and at least 55 protesters were hospitalized. Forty-five suspected rioters were arrested and a further 40 detained.

As the vote got under way early Monday, Prime Minister Lucas Papademos urged calm, pointing to the country's dire financial straits.

"Vandalism and destruction have no place in a democracy and will not be tolerated," Papademos told Parliament. "I call on the public to show calm. At these crucial times, we do not have the luxury of this type of protest. I think everyone is aware of how serious the situation is."

Since May 2010, Greece

has survived on a \$145 billion (euro110 billion) bailout from its European partners and the International Monetary Fund. When that proved insufficient, the new rescue package was approved. The deal, which has not yet been finalized, will be combined with a massive bond swap deal to write off half the country's privately held debt.

But for both deals to materialize, Greece had to persuade its deeply skeptical creditors that it has the will to implement spending cuts and public sector reforms that will end years of fiscal profligacy and tame gaping budget deficits.

As protests raged Sunday, demonstrators set bonfires in

front of parliament and dozens of riot police formed lines to keep them from making a run on the building. Security forces fired dozens of tear gas volleys at rioters, who attacked them with firebombs and chunks of marble broken off the fronts of luxury hotels, banks and department stores.

Clouds of tear gas drifted across the square, and many in the crowd wore gas masks or had their faces covered, while others carried Greek flags and banners. Masked rioters also attacked a police station with petrol bombs and stones.

A three-story building was completely consumed by flames as firefighters struggled to douse

the blaze. Streets were strewn with stones, smashed glass and burnt wreckage, while terrified passers-by sought refuge in hotel lounges and cafeterias.

"I've had it! I can't take it any more. There's no point in living in this country any more," said a distraught shop owner walking through his smashed and looted optician store.

Athens Mayor Giorgos Kaminis said rioters tried to storm the City Hall building, but were repelled. "Once again, the city is being used as a lever to try to destabilize the country," he said.

Conservative New Democracy leader Antonis Samaras said the rioting "hurts the entire country."



A riot police officer looks on as a branch of the Cosmote mobile company is ablaze during clashes in Athens, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012.

## Drillers cut natural gas production as prices drop

**PITTSBURGH (AP)**—As natural gas prices continue to drop, the recent nationwide boom in drilling is slowing. Drillers don't make money if prices go too low—and drilling wells isn't cheap.

"It is safe to say that there will be fewer natural gas wells drilled in 2012," said Kathryn Klaber, president of the Marcellus Shale Coalition, an industry group based in Pennsylvania.

In recent weeks, several companies have announced plans to cut gas production around the nation, but experts say the low prices are also opening up new markets.

When the shale drilling boom was starting in 2008 the average price for a unit of gas was about \$8. Two years ago it was down to \$5.50, and now it's dropped to about \$2.50. Part of the reason is that the shale gas formations became productive more rapidly than expected, as thousands of new wells have been drilled nationwide.

Industry reports note that the national count of active new gas drilling rigs fell to 775 in early

February, down from about 1,500 in 2008.

Yet Klaber said that the low prices create opportunities for more people and industries to use the product. For example, some drilling companies are focusing more on the so-called "wet gas" that sells for a higher price because it can be transformed by refineries into consumer products such as plastics and fertilizer.

Last month, Chesapeake Energy of Oklahoma City said it is reducing the number of new dry gas drilling rigs from 47 to 24 this year. In addition, it immediately cut existing production by about 500 million cubic feet per day, adding that if low prices persist, it may double the cut, to 1 billion cubic feet per day.

The company said that about 85 percent of its nationwide drilling expenditures this year will be toward the more profitable wet gas.

A spokesman for Chesapeake didn't respond to a request for comment.

Experts say the companies have ways to cushion the low

prices. It's called hedging, and business people have used such tools for hundreds if not thousands of years, said Sara Moeller, a professor of business at the University of Pittsburgh.

"When you put a hedge on, you're locking in one of your prices, because you're happy with that price," said Moeller, who has also worked as a commodities trader.

For example, Houston-based Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. said last month that it received \$5.17 per thousand cubic feet of natural gas on some hedged deliveries in the final quarter of 2011. Yet the market price at the time was \$3.18 per thousand cubic feet.

Moeller said such deals are possible because large consumers of commodities also want to reduce price swings, such as utility companies. Locking in prices limits their exposure to sudden jumps.

It's done by a simple, registered trade on stock exchanges. People essentially buy and sell the hedges, setting varying prices for different points in the future.

## The fight begins: Obama's budget going to Congress

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The new budget that President Barack Obama is sending to Congress aims to achieve \$4 trillion in deficit reduction over the next decade by restraining government spending and raising taxes on the wealthy. To help a weak economy, Obama's proposal Monday requests increases in transportation, education and other areas.

While administration officials on Sunday defended the plan as a balanced approach, Republicans belittled the effort as a repeat of failed policies that did too little to attack soaring costs in such programs as Medicare and threatened growth by raising taxes.

The debate is almost certain to go all the way to Election Day in November with gridlock keeping Congress from resolving many pressing issues on expiring tax cuts and across-the-board spending cuts until a lame-duck session at year's end.

Obama's spending blueprint for the budget year that begins Oct. 1 projects a deficit for this year of \$1.33 trillion. That would mean four straight years

of trillion-dollar-plus deficits.

The budget will project a decline in the deficit to \$901 billion in 2013 and continued improvements shrinking the deficit to \$575 billion in 2018.

Republicans said Obama's plan was a stark reminder that the Democratic president had failed to meet the pledge he made after taking office in 2009 to cut the deficit in half by the end of his first term.

But Jacob Lew, Obama's chief of staff, said the administration had to contend with a deep recession and soaring unemployment that had driven the deficits higher than anyone anticipated. He said Obama's plan would cut the deficit below 3 percent of gross domestic product by 2018, to levels that economists generally view as sustainable.

He said faster deficit cuts now would set back an economy still struggling with high unemployment. Lew, Obama's former budget chief, also said it was critical that Congress agree to extend a payroll tax cut due to expire at the end of February. Failure to extend it,

he said, would cause another hit to the economy.

"I think there is pretty broad agreement that the time for austerity is not today," Lew said during a series of appearances on Sunday talk shows. "Right now we have an economy that's taking root ... austerity measures right now would take the economy in the wrong way."

House Republicans are preparing their version of Obama's budget that will propose sharper reductions in government entitlement programs such as Medicare while avoiding any tax increases.

"We're taking responsibility for the drivers of our debt," said the chairman of the House Budget Committee, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis. "So when the dust settles and people see actually what we're doing, how we're promoting bipartisan solutions."

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said Senate Democrats did not want to vote on Obama's spending plan, so he would once again put it forward for a Senate vote where he predicted it would fail as it did last year.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Oil above \$99 as Greece approves austerity cuts

**SINGAPORE (AP)**—Oil prices rose above \$99 a barrel Monday in Asia after the Greek parliament approved new austerity measures that should secure a bailout and avoid bankruptcy. Benchmark crude for March delivery was up 58 cents at \$99.25 a barrel at midmorning Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$1.17 to settle at \$98.67 on Friday. Brent crude was up 85 cents at \$117.60 a barrel on the ICE Futures Exchange in London.

#### Boeing says it's frustrated with Dreamliner glitch

**SINGAPORE (AP)**—A top Boeing Co. executive says that the plane maker is frustrated with the latest 787 Dreamliner production glitch, but that it shouldn't delay output goals. Boeing Vice President of Development Mark Jenks said at a news conference Sunday in Singapore that the company has fixed a shimming problem discov-

ered earlier this month on some 787 fuselages. Jenks said Boeing still plans to boost production from a current two to three 787s a month to 10 of the planes a month by the end of next year.

#### Fuel removal underway on Italy cruise ship

**ROME (AP)**—Authorities in Italy say pumping operations have begun to remove some of the 500,000 gallons of fuel aboard the cruise ship that ran aground off Tuscany. The civil protection department says the fuel extraction operation started Sunday afternoon nearly a month after the Costa Concordia slammed into a reef and capsized off the tiny island of Giglio. Plans to empty the Concordia's fuel tanks were delayed first by the search and rescue operation and then by nearly two weeks of bad weather. A fuel leak would be disastrous for the pristine waters around Giglio, which are part of a protected maritime sanctuary. Seventeen people died in the Jan. 13 grounding and 15 are presumed dead.



# Nation

## Induced labor allows dying Texas man see daughter

**DALLAS (AP)**—Diane Aulger was about two weeks from her delivery date when she and her husband decided there was no time to wait: Mark Aulger had only days to live, and he wanted to see his child.

Diane Aulger had her labor induced and gave birth to their daughter Jan. 18. When tiny Savannah was placed in his arms, Mark Aulger “cried, and he just looked very sad,” his wife said. He died five days later from

complications related to his cancer treatment.

The 52-year-old Texas man was diagnosed with colon cancer in April. He had surgery and, as a precaution, six months of chemotherapy, Diane Aulger said. With no signs of cancer showing up in follow up tests, the treatment seemed successful.

Then in November, Mark Aulger began having trouble breathing. By Jan. 3, he was sick enough to go to the emer-

gency room. His wife said he was told the chemotherapy had caused him to develop pulmonary fibrosis, which causes scarring and thickening in the lungs.

Initially, the Aulgers were hopeful.

“He thought he’d be coming home in a few days with an oxygen tank,” said Diane Aulger, who lives in The Colony, about 25 miles north of Dallas.

But on Jan. 16, the doctor delivered more bad news:

Mark Aulger’s condition was fatal. When Diane Aulger asked how long her husband had, the response was a sobering five or six days.

“Mark said, ‘I’d like to see the baby,’” the 31-year-old mother told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Their baby was due Jan. 29, and Diane Aulger had planned a natural childbirth, but when the doctor suggested an induced labor, she immediately agreed. She was already experiencing pre-labor symptoms, and they scheduled the birth for Jan. 18.

Hospital staff arranged for the Aulgers to share a large labor

and delivery room.

“Our beds were side by side,” Diane Aulger said.

Mark Aulger held his daughter for about 45 minutes after she was born. For the next couple of days, though, he was so tired he was only able to hold her a couple of times for a minute or so. She said he slipped into a coma on Jan. 21 and died two days later.

“I brought her home the night before he fell into the coma. It was just me and Savannah when he passed away,” Diane Aulger said.

Along with Savannah, the Aulgers have two other chil-

dren, ages 10 and 7. Diane Aulger also has a 15-year-old and a 13-year-old.

With her family’s story getting much media attention in recent days, Diane Aulger said she’s been heartened by the nice comments she’s received from people.

She plans to blanket her home with pictures of her husband and said her children are already doing a good job of keeping his memory alive by talking about him.

“We’re living day-to-day as if dad’s still here,” she said. “We know dad is here with us. They talk to dad. Mark was a very funny, funny dad.”

## Santorum plans aggressive strategy against Romney

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)**—A day after Mitt Romney regained some momentum in the Republican presidential contest, his rival Rick Santorum went on the attack, calling the front-runner “desperate” while promising to compete aggressively to win the state where Romney grew up.

Santorum said Sunday he could do “exceptionally well” in Michigan, where Romney’s father served as governor. The Midwestern state and Arizona host Republican presidential nominating contests on Feb. 28.

“We’re going to spend a lot of time in Michigan and Arizona, and those are up next. And that’s where we’ve really been focusing on,” Santorum told ABC’s “This Week.” He suggested that a strong showing in those contests would make the presidential contest “a two-man race,” dismissing current rivals Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul.

Santorum shrugged off his third-place finish Saturday in caucuses in Maine, where he didn’t actively compete, as well as his second-place finish in a straw poll of conservative activists.

Romney has been painting Santorum as a long-time Washington insider who pursued home-state projects. Santorum on Sunday described Romney’s recent criticism as “desperate.”

“You reach a point where desperate people do desperate things,” said Santorum, who represented Pennsylvania during his 16 years in Congress, first in the House and then in the Senate.

Maine GOP officials declared Romney the winner of Saturday’s caucuses. The results ended a three-state losing streak to Santorum, who swept contests in Colorado, Minnesota and Mis-

souri on Tuesday.

With the next primaries more than two weeks away, the break seems unusually long in the rapid-fire race that’s featured six contests in the last 14 days. Romney and his rivals now have 17 days to raise cash and bolster their organizations for what’s shaping up to be a slog to the Republican nomination and the right to face President Barack Obama in November.

As Santorum eyes Michigan, Romney turns his attention to

extending his huge cash advantage over his rivals.

The Massachusetts governor left Maine before the caucus results were announced to attend a West Coast fundraiser Saturday night. He issued a written statement to mark his victory in the low-turnout contest.

“I’m heartened to have the support of so many good people in this great state,” Romney said in the statement. “The voters of Maine have sent a clear message that it is past time to send an outsider to the White House.”

Romney is expected to spend much of next week courting donors, while sprinkling in a handful of campaign events. He’ll be in Arizona Monday evening.

Romney won a plurality of the Maine vote just hours after winning the presidential straw poll at the Conservative Political Action Committee conference in Washington.

But questions about Romney’s durability as his party’s presumed front-runner persist. Fully 61 percent of Maine voters selected a candidate other than Massachusetts’ former governor in a state practically in his backyard. And Romney’s showing was down considerably from 2008, when he won 51 percent of the vote.



Santorum



AP

In this Jan. 18, 2012 photo provided by Diane Aulger, Diane, left, lies next to husband Mark Aulger, who holds their just-born daughter Savannah for the first time, at a hospital in Plano, Texas.

## Top Republican wants vote on birth control mandate

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Conservatives said Sunday the flap surrounding President Barack Obama’s birth control mandate was far from over, with Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell saying he’ll push to overturn the requirement because it was another example of government meddling.

While a senior White House official shrugged off such remarks, declaring the issue resolved and new legislation unlikely, the heated rhetoric from Republicans suggested the GOP would try to keep the debate alive in an election year to rally conservatives and seize upon voter frustration with big government.

“It’s riddled with constitutional problems,” McConnell said of Obama’s broader health-care plan. “And this is what happens when the government tries to take over health care and tries to interfere with your religious beliefs.”

Last week, Obama backed down on a mandate that religious-affiliated employers such as Catholic hospitals and colleges cover birth control in

their health insurance plans. In a tweak of the rule, those employees would be offered free coverage directly from their health insurer. But employers would not provide or pay for it.

The White House says the plan won’t drive up costs because birth control, similar to other preventative care measures, is less expensive than pregnancy. But opponents say that unless drug makers stop charging for contraception, the cost is likely to get passed on to employers regardless.

While some Catholic groups applauded the move, including the Catholic Health Association, the nation’s Catholic bishops said it continued the attack religious freedoms—a theme quickly picked up by Republicans trying to wrest control of the White House this November.

“There’s no compromise here,” said GOP presidential hopeful Rick Santorum, a Catholic and favorite among religious conservatives. “They are forcing religious organizations, either directly or indirectly, to pay for something that they find is a deeply, mor-

ally, you know, wrong thing. And this is not what the government should be doing.”

In several televised interviews, White House chief of staff Jacob Lew defended the latest plan as the best possible compromise to provide women access to contraceptives and respect the religious freedoms of employers. Churches had always been exempt under Obama’s original plan, although religious-affiliated organizations were not.

“We didn’t expect to get universal support of the bishops or all Catholics,” he said. “I think that what we have here is a policy that reflects bringing together two very important principles in a way that’s true to the American tradition.”

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., has called Obama’s revised plan an “accounting gimmick.” He introduced legislation last week that would exempt any organization with moral objections from providing birth control. McConnell said he expects such a bill would be vetoed by the president but that he still wanted a vote “as soon as possible.”



### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Search resumes at recycling center in Powell case

**PUYALLUP, Wash. (AP)**—Volunteers sifted through tons of paper at a recycling center Sunday, hoping to find items that Josh Powell may have dumped before killing himself and his two sons in a house fire last week. The search, involving about 20 people from Pierce County Search and Rescue, was expected to last all day. “What happened last weekend really affected me. I could see smoke from the home from here,” the recycling center’s manager, Don Taylor, told KOMO News. “It would make me feel good if they found something here that could help answer questions about this whole terrible thing.” Powell was the husband of missing Utah woman Susan Powell. He attacked his 5- and 7-year-old sons with a hatchet last Sunday, when a social worker brought the boys to his home for what was a supervised visit, and then ignited the house in a gas-fueled inferno.

#### Police charge Utah man in plot to kill governor

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)**—A Utah man who police say threatened to assassinate Gov. Gary

Herbert and who conducted surveillance on the governor’s mansion is facing multiple felony charges. Brian Biff Baker was charged Friday in Salt Lake City’s 3rd District Court with felony counts of drug and weapons possession, along with a misdemeanor count of threatening elected officials. Baker sent text messages to a friend on Feb. 2 stating that he was lying in the bushes and intended to kill the governor, court records said. The recipient of the texts reported the messages to police and Baker was arrested the same day, the records said.

#### RI player wins \$336 million Powerball jackpot

**PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)**—Lottery officials say someone who played the Powerball in Rhode Island has won the \$336.4 million jackpot. The new multimillionaire has not stepped forward and the lottery has not said where the winning ticket was sold. To win, the player had to match all of Saturday’s five numbers, 1-10-37-52-57, and Powerball number 11. Because of rising sales, the jackpot nearly doubled from \$173.5 million on Feb. 1. Powerball is played in 42 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



# Asia

## Trial opens for top suspect in 2002 Bali bombings

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**—The Muslim militant suspected of building the bombs used in the 2002 Bali attack went on trial Monday on terrorism charges, a year after he was arrested in Pakistan while apparently trying to meet Osama bin Laden.

Umar Patek is the top remaining suspect in the Bali nightclub bombings, which killed 202 people about a year after the Sept. 11 attacks and brought international attention to an al-Qaida-linked group intent on creating a pan-Islamic state throughout Southeast Asia.

Three masterminds in the attack already have been tried and executed, and authorities have made big strides in dismantling their regional terror group, Jamaah Islamiyah.

But Patek, nicknamed “Demolition Man” by Indonesian investigators, escaped the

country after the attack and went on a nine-year flight from justice that took him to the Philippines and Pakistan, allegedly in pursuit of more terror opportunities.

He was captured in January 2011 in the same Pakistani town where U.S. Navy Seals would kill Osama bin Laden just a few months later. Patek was then one of Asia’s most wanted terror suspects, with a \$1 million bounty on his head, and Indonesian officials say he was on a mission to raise money and meet bin Laden.

Patek was tightly guarded as he entered the West Jakarta District Court on Monday.

He smiled to reporters and photographers but did not respond to questions shouted by journalists. Wearing a white robe and a white skullcap, Patek, 45, sat quietly as the indictment was read out by state

prosecutors, led by Bambang Suharijadi.

Patek, whose real name is Hisyam Bin Alizein and who has several aliases, could face death by firing squad if convicted of the various charges against him. The indictment includes charges of premeditated murder, hiding information about terrorism, illegal possession of explosives and conspiracy to commit terrorism.

He also is accused of providing explosives for a string of Christmas Eve attacks on churches in 2000 which claimed 19 lives.

In a re-enactment organized by police in Bali while he was in custody, Patek showed how he and other conspirators stashed a 1,540-pound (700-kilogram) bomb in four filing cabinets, loaded it in a Mitsubishi L300 van along with a TNT vest bomb.

## New president of the Maldives expands his Cabinet

**MALE, Maldives (AP)**—The Maldives’ new president has expanded his Cabinet to include members of the former autocratic ruler’s party, and Islamic conservatives will be appointed ministers in coming days.

Conservatives have been demanding the introduction of strict Islamic laws in the Indian Ocean nation that relies on high-end tourism.

Demonstrations over the past year calling for more religiously conservative policies as well as widespread protests over soaring prices had put pressure on the former leader, Mohamed Nasheed. He resigned last week after his order to arrest a senior judge sparked continuous protests. He later said he had been ousted in a coup, leading to a political crisis.

New President Mohammed

Waheed Hassan said he was forming a coalition government to help restore stability in the Muslim country ahead of presidential elections due next year. Six members from four political parties were sworn in Sunday as ministers.

They include the Progressive Party of the Maldives, headed by Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, the former autocratic leader who ruled for 30 years until Nasheed defeated him in the country’s first multiparty election in 2008.

Adhaalat, or Justice Party, which wants to see the introduction of Shariah law, and several other moderate parties will also receive ministerial positions, according to presidential spokesman Masood Imad.

Some slots in the Cabinet were being kept open in case

Nasheed’s Maldivian Democratic Party changed its mind about joining the coalition government, he said.

The constitution prohibits any religion other than Islam from being practiced or preached in the Maldives and specifies that it be governed according to Islamic principles. But authorities have generally been flexible, mainly to preserve the country’s tourism industry.

However, Islamic activists led by Adhaalat have protested against the former government’s ties with Israel and demanded alcohol not be sold outside resorts. The party also led a protest in December against United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay after she asked the Maldives to stop flogging women found to have had sex outside marriage.

endorsed by Parliament. The bills are essentially the same. Both place same-sex couples on the same footing as heterosexuals, while allowing religious ministers the freedom to refuse to solemnize any marriages that are inconsistent with their beliefs.

### Govt: Health scare on New Zealand flight just flu

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)**—A health scare on a flight from Japan to New Zealand appears to be nothing more serious than a seasonal outbreak of influenza. About 60 passengers traveling on a flight from Tokyo to Auckland arrived Monday morning complaining of flulike symptoms, sparking a swift response from health authorities. But by midmorning, New Zealand’s Health Minister Tony Ryall put out a statement saying “there’s nothing to suggest it’s anything other than seasonal flu.” Ryall said it’s Japan’s traditional flu season and there are no reports of any new strain of flu there this year. The flight, which arrived at 9:20 a.m., was carrying 274 passengers, who were initially told to stay onboard while crews of medical staff wearing masks assessed their health.

# World

## In complicating move, al-Qaida backs Syrian revolt

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Al-Qaida’s leader has called for the ouster of Syria’s “pernicious, cancerous regime,” raising fears that Islamic extremists will try to exploit an uprising against President Bashar Assad that began with peaceful calls for democratic change but is morphing into a bloody, armed insurgency.

The regime has long blamed terrorists for the 11-month-old revolt, and al-Qaida’s endorsement creates new difficulties for the U.S., its Western allies and Arab states trying to figure out a way to help force Assad from power. On Sunday, the 22-nation Arab League called for the U.N. Security Council to create a joint peacekeeping force for Syria, but Damascus rejected it immediately.

In an eight-minute video message released late Saturday, al-Qaida chief Ayman al-Zawahri called on Muslims to support Syrian rebels.

“Wounded Syria is still

bleeding day after day, and the butcher (Bashar Assad) isn’t deterred and doesn’t stop,” said al-Zawahri, who took over al-Qaida after Osama bin Laden was killed by U.S. special forces last May. “However, the resistance of our people in Syria is escalating and growing despite all the pains, sacrifices and blood.”

The United Nations estimates more than 5,400 people have been killed in Syria since the uprising began in March. But that figure is from January, when the U.N. stopped counting because the chaos in the country has made it all but impossible to check the figures.

While many of the anti-government protests sweeping the country remain peaceful, the uprising as a whole has become more violent in recent months as frustrated demonstrators and army defectors take up arms to protect themselves from the steady military assault. An

increasing number of army defectors known as the Free Syrian Army have launched attacks, killing soldiers and security forces.

Syria now has become one of the deadliest conflicts of the Arab Spring, and many fear the country of 22 million at the heart of the Arab world is on the verge of a civil war that could engulf the region.

In a grave escalation of the violence, a string of suicide attacks have killed dozens of people since late December. The latest, twin bombings in the major northern city of Aleppo, killed at least 28 people on Friday, the government said. Some 70 people were killed in earlier attacks in the capital, Damascus, on Dec. 23 and Jan. 6. All the blasts struck security targets.

Nobody has taken responsibility for the attacks, but the regime said they have the hallmarks of al-Qaida and immediately blamed the global terror group.



Mourners carry the body of a Syrian rebel the day after he was killed in fighting in Idlib, Syria, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012.

## Arab League wants UN peacekeepers in Syria

**CAIRO (AP)**—The Arab League called Sunday for the U.N. Security Council to create a joint peacekeeping force for Syria and urged Arab states to sever all diplomatic contact with President Bashar Assad’s regime, the League’s latest effort to bring an end to the violence that has killed more than 5,000 people.

Syria immediately rejected the moves, spelled out in a resolution adopted by League foreign ministers meeting in Cairo.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal conveyed the 22-nation League’s deep frustration with Syria, telling delegates that it was no longer appropriate to stand by and watch the bloodshed.

“Until when will we remain spectators?” he said. The bloodshed in Syria “is a disgrace for us as Muslims and Arabs to accept.”

Syria’s state news agency said the regime rejected the Arab League decisions, which were taken without a Syrian representative present. Syria’s ambassador to the Arab League,

Ahmed Youssef, was quoted as saying that Saudi Arabia and Qatar were “living in a state of hysteria after their last failure at the U.N. Security Council to call for outside interference in Syria’s affairs and to impose sanctions on the Syrian people.”

The Arab League has been at the forefront of regional efforts to end 11 months of bloodshed in Syria. The group put forward a plan that Assad agreed to in December, then sent in monitors to check whether he was complying. When it became clear that Assad’s regime was flouting the terms of the agreement and the killings were continuing, the League pulled out the observers last month.

“The time has come for a decisive action to stop the bloodshed suffered by the Syrian people since the start of last year,” Arab League chief Nabil Elaraby told the Arab foreign ministers. “We must move quickly in all directions ... to end or break the ongoing cycle of violence in Syria.”

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Teenage Tibetan nun sets herself on fire in China

**BEIJING (AP)**—An 18-year-old Tibetan nun has set herself on fire in western China in the latest such protest against Beijing’s handling of the vast ethnic Tibetan regions it rules, an overseas activist group said. Free Tibet said in a statement Sunday that the nun had died after setting set herself ablaze Saturday. The young woman, identified as Tenzin Choedon, was a nun at the Mamae Nunnery in Sichuan province’s Aba prefecture, the group said. It said Choedon shouted slogans of protest against the Chinese government before setting herself on fire at a junction close to the nunnery.

#### Gay marriage bills proposed in Aussie Parliament

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)**—Two rival bills that would lift a ban on gay marriage in Australia were introduced into Parliament on Monday, weeks after the ruling Labor Party lifted its opposition to same-sex unions. The two bills, sponsored by lawmakers from the Labor and the Greens parties, highlight tensions between the minority government partners that undermine the chances of gay marriage being



# Focus

**W**ASHINGTON (AP)—Jeanette Barraza-Galindo conspicuously left her bags of teddy bears and throw pillows on a bus during an inspection at the Texas-Mexico border—and professed ignorance about the \$277,556 officers found hidden inside. The bags were handed to her at a bus station, gifts to be given to a child upon her return to Mexico, she told investigators.

The crime she pleaded guilty to—bulk cash smuggling—is increasingly drawing the attention and resources of federal authorities responsible for fighting drug trafficking across the border. Federal immigration authorities say their investigations have yielded more cash seizures and arrests in the past half-dozen years as criminals, sidestepping scrutiny from banks over electronic transfers, resort to using cash to conceal drug trafficking and move money to crime rings in Mexico and elsewhere.

It's similar to the tactic taken in fighting terrorism: crippling financing networks before the money ends up with leaders of drug cartels and trafficking rings. But the flow is hard to stop.

Officials in both the U.S. and Mexico are realizing that criminal enterprises, just like other businesses, can't operate without a steady cash stream, said David Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego, which promotes scholarship of border issues.

"We're shifting our strategy to a more diverse strategy of not just going after bad guys and arresting them, but also going after their guns, going after their money," he said.

It's illegal to try to smuggle more than \$10,000 in undeclared cash across the border. Officials say the crime is often connected to other illegal activities including drug trafficking, gambling and credit card fraud. Money that's seized is deposited into government forfeiture funds.

The problem is not new, but there are signs of heightened emphasis.

The Obama administration says targeting bulk cash smuggling is a prong of its strategy against transnational crime. Congressional panels held hearings on the issue last year. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement reported more than \$150 million in seized cash and 428 arrests in bulk cash smuggling investigations in fiscal year 2011, up from \$7.3 million and 48 in fiscal year 2005, according to agency statistics.

And a cash smuggling center in Vermont that opened in 2009 and is run by ICE's homeland security investigations has expanded operations, officials announced in December.

But experts say measuring the impact of the beefed-up focus is tricky.

It's hard to track cash's origin and destination—and investigators can't always count on help from couriers, who may be more afraid cooperating than of spending a few years in prison. Plus, the amount seized represents a fraction of the total money at stake. Estimates cited by federal authorities suggest at least \$18 billion in illicit proceeds is



This undated photo, provided by U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, shows bulk cash seized during a combined ICE and Homeland Security Investigation operation.

## US faces tough fight in cash smuggling CRACKDOWN

laundered across the southwestern border each year.

A 2010 report by the Government Accountability Office said staffing and infrastructure at the border were limiting success in detecting large quantities of cash, and also highlighted another, continuing problem: the use of prepaid,

and, that is, they're bulking it up and sending it where it needs to go," said Joseph Burke, chief of ICE's National Bulk Cash Smuggling Center in Vermont.

Criminal organizations generally move contraband north across the border. The money they make, in turn,

flows south.

Burke said the money is often collected at consolidation hubs—perhaps a home in a residential neighborhood or a warehouse—and distributed among several couriers. Dividing the cash into smaller chunks means less money will be lost if one courier is ar-

*Couriers have assorted methods for moving the money, including strapping it to their body, hiding it in car compartments, stacking it on pallets and concealing it in vacuum-packed bags.*

stored value cards to move money.

"I call this winning the battle, losing the war. Sure, \$90 million sounds like a lot," said Bruce Bagley, a University of Miami international studies professor who researches drug trafficking. "That's nothing in comparison to the \$19 to \$39 billion that's being returned" across the border.

Cash smuggling, though a seemingly elementary form of money laundering, has emerged as a seductive medium for criminals as banks have become more sophisticated in spotting suspicious transactions. Cash has built-in advantages, too: It can be transferred without a trace and is instantly available.

"The financial industry has done a much better job in terms of trying to keep out illicit money, and as a result the organizations adapt and then they go to some tried-and-true methods—

rested. Drug trafficking groups recruit relatives, associates and those lower in the organization—like those who might need to pay off debt to the cartel—sometimes dangling as incentive a percentage of the amount of money being transported.

Couriers have assorted methods for moving the money, including strapping it to their body, hiding it in car compartments, stacking it on pallets and concealing it in vacuum-packed bags.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has increased the size of the border patrol and begun screening more vehicle traffic and southbound rail traffic for weapons and cash since the Obama administration announced a new southwestern border initiative in March 2009, agency officials said at congressional hearings last year.

But the accountability office report said CBP needs better data on how successful its efforts have been and more consistent, full-time enforcement. The office said its investigators tested three border ports of entry, with shredded cash hidden in the car.

At two sites, the report said, the cars were allowed to turn around without being searched or the driver questioned. The vehicle wasn't physically inspected at the third, though officers did use an X-Ray detector.

Efrain Perez, a program manager with CBP, said patrol officers are vigilant about looking for suspicious behavior, but it's impossible to catch every single person.

"We know we're can't talk to 100 percent" (of drivers). It's like looking for a needle in a haystack, but we put a lot of resources out there," he said.

Authorities can point to some successful, large-scale investigations, including one—Operation Pacific Rim—that ICE credits with disrupting a powerful cocaine smuggling organization. In that investigation, authorities intercepted at seaports in Colombia and Mexico \$41 million in shrink-wrapped cash hidden within shipments of fertilizer, and broadened it out to score arrests by locating the cartel's smuggling routes.

Meanwhile, activity continues steadily—mostly, but not always, along the southwestern border.

The cases this month include a U.S. citizen from Mexico who was caught in California with \$277,770 in cash, wrapped in bundles and concealed in the rear panels of the car, and the discovery in Illinois of \$572,045 in a rental van driven by a man authorities said had a history of marijuana trafficking, according to a law enforcement bulletin obtained by The Associated Press.

Barraza, the woman stopped with the stuffed animals and throw pillows last March, caught the attention of border patrol officers after she ignored instructions for passengers to remove belongings from the bus. She later pleaded guilty to illegally concealing the money, though charging documents don't explicitly state the motive. She was sentenced in September to two years in prison. Her lawyer didn't return messages.

Perez said the evolving methods of some couriers indicate progress in the fight.

"The smugglers, the drug traffickers, know we're out there, and they adapt. And so do we."



This undated photo, provided by U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, shows bulk cash, seized by the ICE, which was hidden under the lining of a suitcase.



# Overdrive

## Aztek is judged as the worst car in survey

By JERRY HIRSCH  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**LOS ANGELES**—Americans are buying cars at the fastest pace in years and automakers are bringing out new vehicles that get rave reviews for safety and fuel economy.

Some analysts say the post-recession period may represent a new age for the industry, and that's made us a touch nostalgic for the days when the Detroit Three made more cars than they could sell and overseas companies thought American consumers were suckers for anything with a European name and styling.

In that vein, the *Los Angeles Times* asked the editors at auto information company Edmunds.com to put together a list of the 10 worst cars ever sold in America. The *Times* also asked David Champion, senior director of Consumer Reports' automotive test center, to weigh in. And then we gave our online readers a chance to vote on a vehicle to add to the worst 10 list. That vehicle replaces a 1917 Chevrolet that only the folks at Edmunds seem to remember.

■ **2001 Pontiac Aztek:** This was the consensus pick for the worst car of all time.

"It's undeniable that the Aztek's utter hideousness drove the biggest and last nails into Pontiac's heavily side-clad, plastic coffin," said Edmunds.com Editor in Chief Scott Oldham. General Motors shuttered Pontiac as part of its 2009 bankruptcy and restructuring.

Champion noted that the Aztek's odd design made visibility especially poor. "With no rear wiper, it's even worse in inclement weather." He said the interior was particularly flimsy, the ride

The 2002 Pontiac Aztek.

MCT



was uncomfortable and the handling cumbersome.

■ **1974 Ford Mustang II:** Oldham calls this essentially a rebadged Pinto. He said it was something of an abomination to the Mustang fans who identified the name with power and panache, calling it a "shrunk, malformed pony."

■ **1987 Yugo:** The low-price leader when it hit the U.S. market, this was a version of the Fiat 127 made in the former Yugoslavia. Think about that. This was a knockoff of a Fiat that already had a terrible reputation for reliability. The result was not pretty.

■ **1971 Chevrolet Vega:** Should have had the name of another Chevy model, the Nova, which in Spanish means, "doesn't go." Oldham recalls that the Vega's engine couldn't hold oil. It's "a car built with contempt for its buyers." The Vega also was significant because of how it drove consumers to buy far better Toyotas and Hondas.

■ **2003 Saturn Ion:** Here's another GM product that still elicits scorn from the auto cognoscenti. Champion of Consumer Reports

said it had "a cramped interior, uncomfortable seats, insubstantial cabin furnishings, and uneven steering feel. The noisy engine delivers neither quick acceleration nor exceptional fuel economy."

■ **1958 Edsel Corsair:** Edmunds labeled this vehicle "the legendary flop of all automotive flops," though you would have to be about retirement age to remember the vehicle. Oldham said it was a redecorated Mercury with no real market.

■ **1982 Cadillac Cimarron:** This was Caddy's attempt to fake a BMW-style sports sedan with a front-wheel-drive, four-cylinder Chevrolet Cavalier. The car's legacy represents trouble for Cadillac even now, as it readies the launch of the ATS, a true rear-wheel-drive compact sports sedan, later this year.

■ **1979 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme diesel:** An all-around poor car that contributed to the negative consumer perceptions of diesel engines that automakers are still attempting to reverse.

■ **1917 Chevrolet Series D:** Almost no one knows of Chevy's first model with a massively un-

derpowered V-8 engine. The *Times* is replacing it with the following vehicle, which was picked by our online readers: the 1975 AMC Pacer.

■ **1975 AMC Pacer:** Just under 27 percent of the readers who voted said this car should join the list. It wasn't a great driving car and many people found it exceptionally ugly. Oldham of Edmunds offers a qualified opinion. AMC wasn't known for great products but "we felt the Pacer had a little bit of an interesting design. It stood out from the crowd and that was worth a half a point." In his view that's enough to lift the Pacer out of the bottom 10.

■ **1971 Ford Pinto:** No list of the worst cars in America would be complete without this subcompact Ford. The automaker did everything it could to make it cheap, pricing the car at just \$2,000. One of the cost-cutting moves was to not design adequate protection for its rear-mounted fuel tank. That earned the Pinto "a reputation as a fire-prone death trap," Oldham said.

## UNDER THE HOOD

### The most important gauges

By BRAD BERGHOLDT  
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**QUESTION:** Can you help with a debate I'm having with my kids about how often you should check your gauges? I'm saying every few minutes; they're saying they'll look when it's necessary if something isn't right. I'm not sure how they'll know to look at just the right time. Is there some middle ground we can agree on?—Jerry Goodman

**ANSWER:** It's a shame all cars and trucks aren't equipped with a "check gauges" light. Some are, and it's a helpful eye catcher when something is out of bounds. The three gauges that are good to monitor are oil pressure, engine coolant temperature and system voltage. Let's look at how likely and how quickly a fault may surface in each of these areas.

Oil pressure is vital to engine

operation, and severe damage will occur within about one to two minutes if a complete loss of pressure occurs. This is highly unlikely to happen unless there is a loss of oil quantity, and a sudden, massive leak is rare. What's more common is a gradual loss of oil due to normal consumption or leakage that sneaks up on you. If one checks the oil level at about every third or fourth fuel fill-up, this shouldn't be a concern. When an engine is very low on oil, the first indicator might be clicking sounds from the top of the engine or a momentary loss of pressure during sharp turns, starting or stopping. Oil pressure varies with engine temperature and speed between about 15-50 PSI.

Correct engine temperature is also very important. An engine that runs too cool will waste fuel, produce greater emissions and wear out more quickly. Excessive temperature can distort or crack

expensive metal parts such as cylinder heads, pistons and the engine block and can lead to head gasket failure. With proper cooling system maintenance—renewing hoses, belts, and coolant every four or five years—the odds of a sudden failure are slight, but still possible.

Coolant quantity should also be checked regularly. When a vehicle is low on coolant, engine temperature may be OK under light load conditions but dramatically increase under heavier duty such as hill climbing. If a sudden loss of coolant occurs, or the thermostat fails to open properly, a driver has perhaps four or five minutes of driving before big trouble occurs. Desired temperature is about 195 degrees, and less than 230 under severe hill climbing.

System voltage is the least important of the three. You're about twenty times more likely to see low voltage rather than excessive voltage. Low voltage, below 12.6 volts, means the charging system isn't working—normal voltage

should be about 14V. High voltage, above 16 volts, can lead to component damage and a sweating, stinky battery, but is very rare. Upon sudden charging system loss, one has perhaps an hour or two of driving left, and only a few engine re-starts before the battery becomes deeply discharged. If a red battery light or low voltage suddenly occurs along with stiff steering, there's a good chance the serpentine belt has failed. Pull over immediately, as severe overheating will soon occur.

I try to check gauges at least every five minutes and specifically after driving the first five miles (successful thermostat opening) and every two minutes or so when climbing large hills or mountains. Whoever buys the repairs should be the one listened to.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at [under-the-hood@earthlink.net](mailto:under-the-hood@earthlink.net); he cannot make personal replies.



## Repairing older car might not be worth it

By PAUL BRAND  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION:** We own a 2004 Honda Civic Hybrid with just less than 100,000 miles on it. The check-engine and IMA (integrated motor assist) lights came on, so we took it to the dealer. The mechanics said nothing was wrong but to come back if the warning lights came back on. Well, they did two weeks later. The dealer said that the battery needs to be replaced at a cost of about \$3,000. It looks like the book value of the car is \$4,000 to \$5,000, but that doesn't include the battery replacement. At what point do you throw in the towel and replace the car—when the cost of the repair is about the same as the value of the car?

**ANSWER:** The lithium-ion battery pack in your Honda was warranted for eight years or 80,000 miles, except in California and several other states where the mandated warranty was 10 years or 150,000 miles. I'd be inclined to encourage the dealer to ask Honda for some level of customer goodwill help. All they can do is say no.

Looking at your basic question regarding repair cost vs. replacement vehicle, I can't argue with choosing to replace the vehicle when the cost of repairs approaches the value of the vehicle. Repairs do not enhance vehicle value, thus are not recoverable. Putting major repair dollars toward the purchase of a replacement vehicle probably makes more sense in the long run, particularly if you're planning to trade in your older vehicle. In most cases a dealer can repair—in this case replace the hybrid battery pack—for less than you can, so the dealer may value your trade a bit higher than someone purchasing it at retail and facing the cost of battery replacement.

**Q: I have a 1999 Pontiac Montana with 129,000 miles on it. Occasionally the upshifts are hard or harsh. On the next trip, it will be smooth. When it's acting up, I baby it and take it super easy on the gas. I'm guessing maybe a transmission solenoid or valve sticks once in a while. Is there any damage from the occasional "thunk" upshifts? I do change the transmission fluid and filter on a regular basis.**

**A:** Start the diagnosis by checking for fault codes with a scan tool. If the transmission operates in the "limp" or "fault" mode, hydraulic line pressure is increased to prevent slippage, which will make the upshifts noticeably more firm. Hard or firm shifts may not feel good, but they don't hurt the transmission.

Intermittent harsh shifts could be due to a higher than normal transmission fluid temperature causing limp-mode operation. Another possible cause is dirt or debris in a hydraulic passage, accumulator or the control valve body. I'd try adding half a can of SeaFoam Trans-Tune to help clean and de-gunk hydraulic passages and components.

Next time this occurs, pull over safely, shut off the ignition, then restart the engine. If transmission shift quality returns to normal, a scan tool should identify the trouble code related to the problem.

■ ■ ■ ■

**Q: Our right turn signal—front and rear—quit working on our '97 Buick Park Avenue. No indicator light on the dash. The four-way flashers work. The fuses under the hood look OK. An auto parts store said it could be the flasher units under dash. I'm 72 and physically unable to lie under dash to look. A local shop said it could be a \$700 fix. Unbelievable! Any input would be greatly appreciated.**

**A:** Your Buick uses a common flasher module for the turn signals and four-way flashers. If the right-hand cornering lamp operates when the turn signal is engaged, plus the fact that the four-ways work, the problem may be in the module or a short in the module harness or connector. If the cornering lamp does not illuminate with the turn signal, the problem is most likely in the turn signal's multifunction switch or harness in the steering column.

Paul Brand, author of *How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at [paulbrand@startribune.com](mailto:paulbrand@startribune.com). Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.



# Life & Style

## Adele is the top winner with 6 Grammys

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY  
AP MUSIC WRITER

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Adele, who captured the world's heart with an album about a broken romance, emerged as the top winner at Sunday's Grammy Awards, winning six trophies including the prestigious trifecta of record, song and album of the year.

The singer, who also made a triumphant comeback from vocal cord surgery on the Grammy stage, sobbed as she won the night's final award, album of the year, for "21." It was last year's top-selling album with more than six million copies sold and remains lodged at the No. 1 spot on this year's charts.

Her victories tied her with Beyonce as the most wins by a woman in one evening.

"Mom, gold is good!" Adele shouted as she took the album of the year trophy.

The celebration of Adele, a big-voiced, soulful singer, came on a night where the Grammys marked the loss of one of music's great female voices—and one of its most prized talents overall. Whitney Houston died the night before the Grammys, casting a shadow over music's biggest night.

But while her death lent a somber overtone to the evening's show, it did not overwhelm it, perhaps best proved by the show's closing number, a rollicking jam session featuring Paul McCartney, Bruce Springsteen, Tom Petty, and Dave Grohl among others.

The night's other big winners were Grohl's Foo Fighters, who won five Grammys. They noted that they made their album "Wasting Light" in a garage.

"To me this award means a lot because it shows that the hu-

man element of making music is what's most important. Singing into a microphone, learning to play an instrument and learning to do your craft, that's the most important thing for people to do," Grohl said as the band accepted their best rock performance trophy for "Walk." "It's not about being perfect. It's not about sounding absolutely correct. It's not about what goes on in a computer. It's about what goes on in here (your heart) and what goes on here (your head). ... Long live rock 'n' roll!"

Among the evening's performances was a dance-heavy number by Chris Brown, and performances by McCartney and Springsteen, who kicked off the show by performing his new song "We Take Care of Our Own," a rousing song that references the troubles of the nation.

But the evening's most moving moment came as Jennifer Hudson—who has called Houston an inspiration and one of her biggest idols—emerged to sing one of Houston's signature songs, "I Will Always Love You." Dressed in black, with only the accompaniment of a piano, Hudson appeared to fight back tears as she sang the song, ending with the line, "Whitney, we will always love you."

The show started off on a somber note, as host LL Cool J appeared in black, and told the audience: "There is no way around this. We've had a death in our family."

He then led the audience in prayer to "our fallen sister."

"Heavenly father, we thank you for sharing our sister Whitney with us," he said, as celebrities like Lady Gaga and Miranda Lambert bowed their heads in prayer. "Though she is gone too soon, we remain truly blessed to have been touched by

her beautiful spirit."

He then introduced a clip of a glowing Houston singing "I Will Always Love You." In his performance of "Runaway Baby," Bruno Mars also mentioned the death: "Tonight we're celebrating. Tonight we're celebrating the beautiful Miss Whitney Houston."

And Stevie Wonder said: "To Whitney up in heaven, we all love you."

The show, as usual, was heavy on performances more than awards. Among those was Chris Brown, who was performing on the stage for the first time since he dropped out of 2009's broadcast; his attack on Rihanna the night before led to both of their absences, an assault charge for Brown and a career low.

But 2011 marked an amazing comeback for Brown and he was rewarded with two planned performances during the show, the first time he and Rihanna performed at the same event since the attack (she sang solo and with Coldplay during the ceremony).

Brown also won best R&B album: "First and foremost, I gotta thank God, and thank the Grammys for letting me get on this stage and do my thing," he said. "All my fans, I love you. We got one. Thank you."

Justin Vernon, whose band Bon Iver beat Nicki Minaj, The Band Perry, J. Cole and Skrillex for best new artist, accepted the award with admittedly mixed emotions.

"It's really hard to accept this award. Well, there's so much talent out here, like on this stage. There's a lot of talent that's not here tonight. It's also hard to accept because when I started to make songs I did it for the inherent reward of making songs, so I'm a little bit uncom-



AP  
Adele accepts the award for record of the year for "Rolling in the Deep" during the 54th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012 in Los Angeles.

dine and Brian Wilson, the three remaining members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band, all pitch-perfect as they brought the groups California rock sound and harmonies back to life.

Glen Campbell, who announced his retirement last year after disclosing he had Alzheimer's disease, also performed with The Band Perry and Blake Shelton, singing his classic hit, "Rhinestone Cowboy."

The Foos and Brown also returned for another dance-themed performance, a first for the Grammys. It also featured deadmau5, David Guetta and Lil Wayne.

And with Lady Gaga not performing, Minaj stepped in to give the night's most bizarre/headscratching performance. The rapper-singer's number included a clip that referenced "The Exorcist" and a stage show that had her levitating on stage amid a church-like background, with hooded choir members and religious imagery.

fortable up here," he said. "But with that discomfort I do have a sense of gratitude. I want to say thank you to all the nominees, all the non-nominees that have never been here and never will be here."

The Grammys did their best to keep a tone that balanced the many moods of the night: The Foo Fighters performed in a

tent outside the Staples Center, where the awards were being held, amid a throng of bouncing fans; but moments earlier, Alicia Keys and Bonnie Raitt paid tribute to Etta James, the legend who died last month.

There was also a tribute to the recently reunited Beach Boys that featured Maroon 5, Foster the People and Mike Love, Al Jar-

### WINNERS' LIST

List of Grammy winners in select major categories:

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Winners in selected major categories at Sunday's 54th Annual Grammy Awards:

**Album of the Year:** "21," Adele  
**Record of the Year:** "Rolling in the Deep," Adele

**Song of the Year:** "Rolling in the Deep," Adele Adkins & Paul Epworth

**New Artist:** Bon Iver

**Pop Solo Performance:** "Someone Like You," Adele

**Pop Performance by a Duo or Group:** "Body and Soul," Tony Bennett & Amy Winehouse

**Pop Vocal Album:** "21," Adele

**Alternative Album:** "Bon Iver," Bon Iver

**Rock Song:** "Walk," Foo Fighters  
**Rock Album:** "Wasting Light," Foo Fighters

**Rock Performance:** "Walk," Foo Fighters

**Hard Rock/Metal Performance:** "White Limo," Foo Fighters

**R&B Album:** "F.A.M.E.," Chris

Brown

**R&B Song:** "Fool For You," Cee Lo Green, Melanie Hallim & Jack Splash

**R&B Performance:** "Is This Love," Corrine Bailey Rae

**Traditional R&B Vocal Performance:** "Fool For You," Cee Lo Green & Melanie Fiona

**Rap Album:** "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy," Kanye West

**Rap Performance:** "Otis," Jay-Z and Kanye West

**Rap Song:** "All of the Lights," Jeff Bhasker, Stacy Ferguson, Malik Jones, Warren Trotter & Kanye West

**Rap/Sung Collaboration:** "All of the Lights," Kanye West, Rihanna, Kid Cudi & Fergie

**Dance Recording:** "Scary Monsters and Nice Sprites," Skrillex

**Dance/Electronic Album:** "Scary Monsters and Nice Sprites," Skrillex

**Musical Theater Album:** "The Book of Mormon," Robert Lopez, Trey Parker & Matt Stone

**World Music Album:** "Tassili," Tinariwen

**Country Solo Performance:**

"Mean," Taylor Swift

**Country Album:** "Own the Night," Lady Antebellum

**Country Performance by a Duo or Group:** "Barton Hollow," The Civil Wars

**Country Song:** "Mean," Taylor Swift

**Jazz Vocal Album:** "The Mosaic Project," Terri Lyne Carrington & various artists

**Jazz Instrumental Album:** "Forever," Corea, Clark & White

**Improvised Jazz Solo:** "500 Miles High," Chick Corea

**Large Ensemble Jazz Album:** "The Good Feeling," Christian McBride Big Band

**Blues Album:** "Revelator," Tedeschi Trucks Band

**Folk Album:** "Barton Hollow," The Civil Wars

**Pop Instrumental Album:** "The Road From Memphis," Booker T. Jones

The full winners list in all categories will be available at <http://www.grammy.com>

### MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the family of the late

**Ernesto Dela Rosa Palero**  
Lovingly known as "Erning"

would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to our relatives and friends who surrounded us with love, prayers, kindness and support.

Your thoughtful gesture and kind words have consoled our hearts beyond expectation in such difficult times. Your presence at the nightly mass and most especially at the mass of Christian burial was very comforting.

We will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

**May God Bless You All!**

Thank you very much and Si'Yu'us Ma'ase.

**From the Children & Family**



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#### Journey2: Mysterious Island

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

The Rock, Venessa Hudgens, Michael Caine  
 Adventure • Rated PG

#### Synopsis

The worlds of Jules Verne and Robert Louis Stevenson combine in this sequel to the surprise 2008 3D hit Journey to the Center of the Earth. Richard Outten provides the screenplay for the New Line Cinema film that plans to bring the in-your-face action to the fabled island that became the basis for such books as 'Treasure Island' and 'Gulliver's Travels'. Dwayne Johnson stars in the movie, with Josh Hutcherson returning to the franchise -- something that original cast member Brendan Fraser opted out of due to scheduling conflicts. Michael Caine co-stars.



#### Safe House

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds  
 Spy film, Thriller • Rated R



#### The Descendants

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

George Clooney, Shailene Woodley  
 Comedy, Drama • Rated R



#### The Woman in Black

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Daniel Radcliffe, Ciarán Hinds  
 Thriller, Mystery • Rated PG 13



#### Chronicle

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Dane DeHaan, Alex Russell  
 Thriller • Rated PG 13



#### The Grey

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Frank Grillo  
 Adventure • Rated R



#### Underworld: Awakening

Friday		4:25	9:40
Saturday		4:25	9:40
Sunday		4:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	

Kate Beckinsale, Stephen Rea  
 Horror • Rated R



#### The Devil Inside

Friday		7:25
Saturday	1:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	7:25
Monday thru Thursday		7:25

Fernanda Andrade, Simon Quarterman  
 Horror • Rated R

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## Investigators seek answers to Houston's death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Investigators worked Sunday to piece together what killed Whitney Houston as the music industry's biggest names prepared for a Grammy Awards show that will undoubtedly feel as much like a memorial as a celebration.

Coroner's officials say they will not release any information on Houston's autopsy at the request of police detectives investigating the singer's death. Capt. John Kades says an autopsy was scheduled Sunday, but that a security hold prevents him from releasing any details on its status or whether any probable cause of death has been established.

Beverly Hills Police Lt. Mark Rosen said that his agency may release more details Monday about Houston's death, but it will depend on whether detectives feel comfortable releasing any information. A member of Houston's entourage found the 48-year-old singer unresponsive in her hotel room at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Saturday, just hours before she was supposed to appear at a pre-Grammy gala.

Houston's body arrived at the morgue early Sunday. An official determination of her cause of death will likely take weeks while investigators await the results of toxicology tests.

Beverly Hills Police Lt. Mark Rosen said there were no signs of foul play when Houston was found by a member of her entourage. Paramedics worked to revive Houston, but were unsuccessful and the singer was pronounced dead shortly before 4 p.m. He said he could not comment on the condition of Houston's room or where she had been found.

Meanwhile, Houston's daughter was transported by ambulance to a Los Angeles hospital Sunday morning and later released. A source close to the family who did not want to speak given the sensitivity of the matter said she was treated and released for stress and anxiety. Bobbi Kristina Brown, 18, who is Houston's daughter from her marriage to singer Bobby Brown, had accompanied her mother to several pre-Grammy Awards events last week.

"At this time, we ask for privacy, especially for my daughter," Bobbi Kristina Brown wrote in a statement released about an hour after she was transported from the hotel.



The body of Whitney Houston is removed from the Beverly Hilton Hotel early Sunday Feb. 12, 2012 in Beverly Hills Calif.

"I appreciate all of the condolences that have been directed towards my family and I at this most difficult time."

Sunday's Grammys were to feature a musical tribute to Houston by Jennifer Hudson, and the show is likely to feature remembrances from fellow musicians on the red carpet and during the live telecast. During a show Saturday night at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Elton John called Houston an "angel" and the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. He then performed his melancholy classic "Don't Let the Sun Go Down On Me."

Houston herself won six Grammys and had been expected to perform at the pre-awards gala Saturday night thrown by music impresario Clive Davis, her longtime mentor.

Davis went ahead with his annual party and concert, which were held at the same hotel where Houston's body was found—and where it remained for most of Saturday night. He dedicated the evening to her and asked for a moment of silence.

The singer seemed fine Houston had been at rehearsals for the Davis concert on Thursday, coaching singers Brandy and Monica, according to a person who was at the event

but was not authorized to speak publicly about it.

The person said Houston looked disheveled, was sweating profusely and liquor and cigarettes could be smelled on her breath. It was the latest of countless stories about the decline of a uniquely gifted and beautiful artist, once the golden girl of the music industry.

The Rev. Al Sharpton remembered Houston while preaching Sunday morning at the Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

"Yes, she had an outstanding range," he said. "Yes, she could hit notes no one else could reach. But what made her different was she was born and bred in the bosom of the black church."

The congregation applauded and answered him with shouts of "Amen" and "Tell it!"

"A lot of artists can hit notes but they don't hit us. Say words but they have no meaning. Have gifts and talent but no anointing. Something about Whitney that would reach in you and make you feel," Sharpton said.

A sensation from her very first album, she was one of the world's best-selling artists from the mid-1980s to the late 1990s. She awed millions with soaring, but disciplined vocals rooted in gospel and polished for the masses, a bridge between the earthy passion of her godmother, Aretha Franklin, and the bouncy pop of her cousin, Dionne Warwick.

Her success carried her beyond music to movies, where she became a rare black actress with box office appeal, starring in such hits as "The Bodyguard" and "Waiting to Exhale." Bishop T.D. Jakes, a Texas minister and producer on Houston's final film project, a re-make of the 1970s release "Sparkle," said he saw no signs she was having any substance issues. He said Houston was a complete professional and moved the cast and crew to tears two months ago when she sang the gospel hymn "Her Eyes on the Sparrow" for a scene shot in Detroit.

"There was no evidence in working with her on 'Sparkle' that there was any struggle in her life," Jakes said Sunday. "She just left a deep impression on everybody."

She had the perfect voice and the perfect image: gorgeous, but wholesome; grounded, but un-loving. And she influenced a generation of younger singers, from Christina Aguilera to Mariah Carey, who when she first came out, sounded so much like Houston that many couldn't tell the difference.

But by the end of her career, Houston had become a stunning and heartbreaking cautionary tale. Her album sales plummeted and the hits stopped coming; her once serene image was shattered by a wild demeanor and bizarre public appearances.

## Whitney Houston's daughter released from hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Whitney Houston's daughter has been released from a Los Angeles hospital after being rushed there the morning after her mother's death.

A source close to the family who did not want to speak given the sensitivity of the matter says Bobbi Kristina Brown was

treated and released for stress and anxiety.

The 18-year-old was taken by ambulance to the hospital around 10:30 a.m. Sunday from the Beverly Hilton Hotel, where her mother was found dead Saturday afternoon.

Brown had accompanied her mother to

several pre-Grammy events last week.

Coroner's officials received Whitney Houston's body early Sunday morning, but have not yet said when an autopsy will occur. Any cause of death determination will likely be delayed while they await toxicology results.

## Israeli Black Hebrews mourn diva Whitney Houston

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's Black Hebrew community is mourning the loss of Whitney Houston, who famously visited them in 2003.

Ben Ammi Ben-Israel, the leader of the 2,500-strong group of vegan polygamists, told Channel 2 TV Sunday that he consid-

ered Houston his "spiritual daughter."

In 2003, she visited the Black Hebrews in the desert town of Dimona. The group moved to the Holy Land from the U.S. decades ago. They believe they're descendants of a lost tribe of Israelites.

Houston was found dead Saturday in a

Los Angeles hotel room. She had struggled for years with drug and alcohol abuse.

Ben-Israel—a former Chicago bus driver—said Houston was a source of pride for his community. He said he recently invited her back to Israel "to help her overcome her problem."



# Grammys honor Houston, celebrate 'fallen sister'

By JAKE COYLE  
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

With an opening prayer and a moving tribute from Jennifer Hudson, the Grammy Awards played the part of impromptu memorial for Whitney Houston just a day after the six-time Grammy winner was found dead in the bathtub of her Beverly Hills hotel room.

"We've had a death in our family," said host LL Cool J shortly after Bruce Springsteen opened the show by singing, with obvious poignancy, his new single, "We Take Care of Our Own."

Cool J led the crowd in a prayer for music's "fallen sister," as the Staples Center crowd bowed their heads. He declared the night one to "celebrate and remember," and played a clip of Houston performing "I Will Always Love You" from the 1994 Grammys.

Much later in the show, following the "in memoriam" segment, Hudson, the actress and former "American Idol" finalist, performed a tribute to the 48-year-old Houston by singing her hit ballad "I Will Always Love You." It was a tender, simple performance that encapsulated the glamour and vocal power Houston embodied.



Jennifer Hudson performs "I Will Always Love You" during the In Memoriam portion of the 54th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012 in Los Angeles.

She sang the last words of the song as: "Whitney, we love you."

Bathed in a solemn spotlight, Hudson performed in a sleek black gown, accompanied only by piano. She received a standing ovation while portraits of music luminaries who died in the past year were lit above her.

That Houston's death came so soon before the CBS broad-

cast meant "a full-blown tribute" wasn't possible, said Grammy show producer Ken Ehrlich. He turned to Hudson on Saturday evening to hurriedly assemble a performance that Neil Portnow, president of the Recording Academy, said was pulled together in hours of frantic phone calls.

"Musicians, by nature, improvise," said Portnow on the red carpet before the show.

There were numerous nods to Houston throughout the night, including comments from Stevie Wonder ("I just want to say to Whitney up in heaven, we all love you, Whitney Houston") and Rihanna ("Make some noise for Whitney!").

But the Grammys didn't just honor Houston. It also took time to pay tribute to soul and blues icon Etta James, rap godfather Gil Scott-Heron and "Soul Train" creator Don Cornelius.

But as attendees arrived at the Grammys, Houston was on everyone's mind. She had been expected to perform at the pre-awards gala Saturday night thrown by music impresario Clive Davis.

"Whenever there's tragedy, family pulls together—and this is my family," said producer Jimmy Jam. "There's going to a little bit of everything tonight, and that's how the emotions should be."

"I'm glad we're all together to grieve together," said singer Bonnie Raitt.

For those who were particularly close to Houston, the evening was a difficult one. Just days before, on Thursday, R&B singer Kelly Price performed a duet of "Yes, Jesus Loves Me" with Houston at a pre-Grammy celebration—Houston's last performance.

"I'm here," said an emotional Price, a friend and a frequent collaborator with Houston. "She gave the genre of R&B music a gift that can never be denied."

Heartfelt reaction swept across genres.

"Few people will ever touch the world as much as Whitney Houston," said country star Billy Ray Cyrus.

Musicians who grew up in the 1980s recognized the loss a soundtrack to their youth. R&B singer Ledisi burst into a warm, impromptu rendition of Houston's "How Will I Know" on the red carpet.

The Grammys were far from alone in honoring Houston. Reaction continued to pour in on social media. BET, MTV and VH1 ran tributes to the singer Sunday. Oprah Winfrey said she would remember Houston in a two-hour tribute Thursday on the Oprah Winfrey Network.

"She wrote all the good bits and I made this coffee," Straughan said. "So, Bridget—I love you, I miss you. This is for you."

The British prizes, known as BAFTAs, are considered a strong indicator of likely success at Hollywood's Academy Awards, to be held on Feb. 26.

The trophies give more momentum to "The Artist," which has already won three Golden Globes, and has 10 Oscar nominations.

Dujardin, who plays a silent screen icon eclipsed by the talkies, said the appeal of "The Artist" lay in its accessibility.

## 'The Artist' named best picture at UK film awards

LONDON (AP)—Silent movie "The Artist" had a night to shout about Sunday, winning seven prizes including best picture at the British Academy Film Awards.

Britain's equivalent of the Oscars rewarded the French homage to old Hollywood over a homegrown favorite, espionage thriller "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy."

"The Artist," a black-and-white picture that has charmed audiences around the world since its Cannes debut in May,

was named best film, and its rubber-limbed star Jean Dujardin took the male acting prize. Its filmmaker, Michel Hazanavicius, won prizes for directing and his original screenplay.

Dujardin said it was "incroyable"—incredible—to win a prize in the homeland of acting titan Laurence Olivier, William Webb Ellis—the inventor of rugby—and Benny Hill.

Hazanavicius thanked presenter Brad Pitt for pronouncing his name correctly—and academy voters for recognizing that his silent film even had a screenplay.

"So many people thought

there was no script because there was no dialogue," he said.

Another homage to early cinema, Martin Scorsese's Parisian fantasy "Hugo," took prizes for sound and production design.

John le Carre adaptation "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" went into the ceremony with 11 nominations compared to 12 for "The Artist," but won just two prizes, for British film and for adapted screenplay.

Writer Peter Straughan dedicated the screenplay award to his wife and co-writer Bridget O'Connor, who died of cancer before the film was completed.

## Love beats action as 'The Vow' bows with \$41.7M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Love triumphed over action at the weekend box office with a No. 1 debut for the romantic drama "The Vow."

Studio estimates Sunday show that the love story starring Rachel McAdams and Channing Tatum took in \$41.7 million to come in ahead of two new action tales and the first 3-D "Star Wars" reissue.

Landing a close second with \$39.3 million was Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds' action thriller "Safe House." Coming in solidly at No. 3 was Dwayne Johnson's family action sequel "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island" with \$27.6 million.

And adding to George Lucas' riches was the 3-D premiere of "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace," which was No. 4 with \$23 million. That raises the lifetime domestic total for "Phantom

1. **"The Vow,"** \$41.7 million (\$9.7 million international).
2. **"Safe House,"** \$39.3 million (\$10.2 million international).
3. **"Journey 2: The Mysterious Island,"** \$27.6 million (\$25.5 million international).
4. **"Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace"** in 3-D, \$23 million (\$20.5 million international).
5. **"Chronicle,"** \$12.3 million.
6. **"The Woman in Black,"** \$10.3 million.
7. **"The Grey,"** \$5.1 million.
8. **"Big Miracle,"** \$3.9 million (\$400,000 international).
9. **"The Descendants,"** \$3.5 million.
10. **"Underworld Awakening,"** \$2.5 million.

Menace to \$454.1 million.

This was the first non-holiday weekend that four movies opened with more than \$20 million each, said Paul Dergarabedian, analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. The only other time when four new releases did that well was over Christmas weekend in 2008, he said.

"It felt like a summer weekend to me," Dergarabedian said. "This was like a great big valentine from Hollywood to the audience, or from the audience to Hollywood."

So far this year, domestic receipts are at \$1.2 billion, 19 percent ahead of 2011's.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

## Queen and her gallant knight have shared lifetime of love

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** At this time of year I have seen letters in your column from couples describing how they met. I hope you will print ours.

During a study break one evening in April 1937, I walked to Bruckner Boulevard Park in the Bronx to sit on a bench and watch the cars drive by. A cyclist whizzed through the center walkway, then stopped and slowly backed up to where I was sitting.

"Hello," he said. I responded. "Who are you?" he asked. "I'm Queen Elizabeth the First," I told him without batting an eye. "Well," he replied, "I'm Sir Walter Raleigh—unfortunately, I don't have a coat to place at your feet." Then he sat down beside me. We talked, we laughed, and he walked me home.

Four years later, Ben and I eloped. That was April 3, 1941.

This year we will celebrate our 71st anniversary and have, in our lifetime together, accumulated three beautiful daughters, nine grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren and another on the way.

We have shared our tears, our joys, our failures and our successes. We have worked long hours, taken vacations, participated in sports and traveled. We have enjoyed every moment. Now in our 90s, we are financially secure, have a caring family and many beautiful memories. Ben, however, has not as yet placed his coat at my feet.

BELLA IN NEW YORK

**DEAR BELLA:** No, he took you on a lifetime magic carpet ride instead. May you enjoy many more years of happiness together.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Last weekend I went to a birthday slumber party at a friend's house. We played poker as we often do, then one girl suggested we play strip poker. She was kind of pushy about it. I wasn't comfortable with the idea and chose not to participate. I was the only one. Everybody laughed at me. They called me a prude and told me "all girls look the same."

I don't think I'm a prude. I'm not shy about undressing in front of my sister and friends. I'm just not comfortable about something like this and saw no point to it. I mean, if "we're all the same," then what's the reason for exposing our bodies to each other? Everybody thought it was fun, and those who ended up taking it all off laughed about it.

Is there something wrong with me? Now they're talking about doing it at future slumber parties, so I'm not sure how to handle it. I could just not attend, but this is the group I hang out with, and I don't like to miss out.

NO PRUDE IN SACRAMENTO

**DEAR NO PRUDE:** Not only is there nothing wrong with you, I applaud you for not giving in to peer pressure and doing something you didn't feel was right. It took maturity to refuse.

Because you're not comfortable playing strip poker, you should make other plans for those nights. This doesn't mean you shouldn't socialize with your friends—but if their idea of a fun time is strip poker, consider cultivating a few more relationships with girls who have broader interests. That way you'll have something to do on nights they are playing—until they grow bored with the game. (And they will.)

**TO MY READERS IN ABBYLAND:**

I'd like to make my feelings clear,  
I love you "Abbdicts" far and near.  
Your comments challenge and enlighten,  
stimulate and often brighten.  
Yes, I know you're sometimes critical,  
but you're always analytical.  
So on this Happy Valentine's Day  
I send a heart full of love your way.

ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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### Winehouse's parents accept Grammy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One of the Grammy show's most poignant moments was one that TV viewers didn't see.

When Tony Bennett received the Grammy Sunday for best pop performance by a duo or group for his duet with Amy Winehouse, he invited the late singer's parents to join him on stage during the awards ceremony's pre-show segment.

"We shouldn't be here. Our darling daughter should be here," Winehouse's father, Mitch, said after he and the singer's mother, Janis, had embraced Bennett.

His daughter was thrilled, Winehouse said, to have recorded the Grammy-winning song "Body and Soul" with Bennett.

Mitch Winehouse also noted Whitney Houston's death Saturday and the recent passing of Etta James. "What can I say? There's a beautiful girl band up in heaven," he said.



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



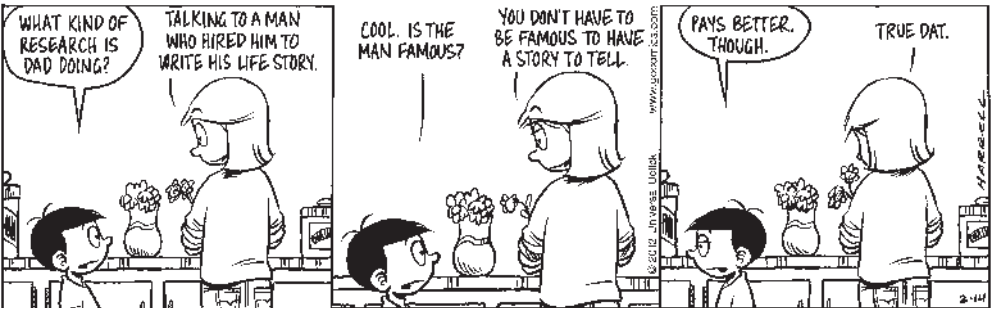
Garfield®

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The Duplex

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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Mexican peninsula 5 Musso-lini's title 9 Scoundrel 12 Culture medium 13 Composer Khachaturian 14 Past 15 Tea party guest 17 Regret 18 Corridor 19 Indy 500 entrant 21 Sorts 24 Conk on the noggin 25 Frost 26 Guaranteed to work 30 Bobby of hockey fame 31 Technophiles' magazine 32 Blue

DOWN 33 Comfy chair 35 Existed 36 Female red deer 37 Pyromaniac's crime 38 Packing heat 40 Sagacious 42 Spelling contest 43 Some "USA Today" illustrations 48 Crib 49 Sheltered 50 Grand 51 Pismire 52 Pentagon VIPs 53 Barrel part

16 Owns 20 Donkey 21 Explorer Heyerdahl 22 Bygone times 23 Old paper 24 Coffin stand 26 Locate 27 100 square meters 28 Gambling game 29 Paradise 31 Talkative one 34 Falsehood 35 Christmas door decoration 37 Blond shade 38 "Waterloo" quartet 39 Check 40 Small songbird 41 Chills 44 Hearty quaff 45 Pi follower 46 Overly 47 Dine

Solution time: 21 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 2-14

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Drew Bledsoe, 40; Simon Pegg, 42; Enrico Colantoni, 49; Florence Henderson, 78.

**Happy Birthday:** Avoid situations that bring you down. Distance yourself from negative people. Be selective when choosing activities, groups or courses. Too much of anything or anyone will hold you back or cost you time or money. Open up to new ideas and be receptive to personal or business partnerships that ensure equality as well as beneficial experience. Your numbers are 8, 11, 12, 25, 32, 36, 47.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Follow your dreams. Don't let anyone interfere with your plans. Get whatever work you are responsible for out of the way and focus on your personal accomplishments. Success is within reach, but you do have to put in extra time and effort. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Get involved in new hobbies, activities and interests. Share with others and get to know co-workers, peers or social network friends better. The more diverse you become, the more you will enjoy what life has to offer. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Honesty will be required, especially when dealing with an employer, colleague or interviewer. You have plenty to offer without exaggerating. Using your skills uniquely is your strong point and should be the angle you project. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Refrain from getting involved in an activity, challenge or event for the wrong reason. You have to be true to you. Follow your own path and

discover and develop the skills that will help you get ahead personally or professionally. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Forget about an emotional conflict you have with someone so you can move forward. Don't waste good opportunities sulking or fretting over something you cannot change. Your happiness and success is the best way to let go of the past. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Expand your knowledge and the network of people you share with and you will find a way to change your status and improve your financial position. A change to your residence will add to your comfort, as long as you don't overspend impulsively. \*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Look at the facts. Don't be fooled by what others say or do. Tally up the pros and cons and what works for you. Look at your options and base your decisions on your situation, not someone else's plans. \*\*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Trust in what you do well and promote your talents to a wider range of companies, clients and people in general. A connection you made networking will come in handy now. Don't be afraid to ask for favors. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Truth is important. Whether it's you or the person you are dealing with, deception is apparent and will lead to loss of friendship, money or reputation. Precise communication and asking questions when in doubt will spare you unnecessary setbacks. \*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Think outside the box and you will come up with a surprising plan that will give you an advantage when dealing with friends and colleagues. Your insight will come from past experience. Stick to your principles and plans, even if others don't. \*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Keep your emotions out of any decision you have to make. Your choice of people and the path you are considering will not be in your best interest. You can accomplish far more if you scale down and move forward on your own. \*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Rely on trustworthy people from your past. Information received from outsiders will be sketchy and costly. Concentrate on tried-and-true methods you feel comfortable pursuing. A financial partnership will turn sour. Protect your assets. \*\*\*\*\*

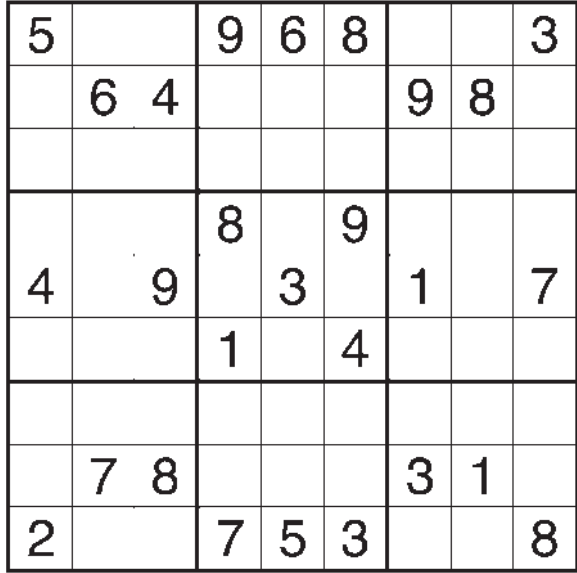
**Birthday Baby:** You are sensitive, responsive and intense. You strive for perfection and completion.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

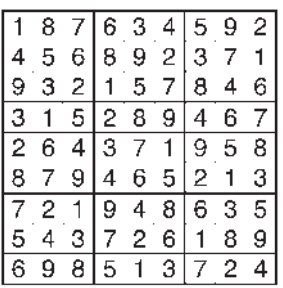
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★ 2/1

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle. Search horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ARIZONA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD Solution: 14 letters



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Apache, Arpaio, Bisbee, Brewer, Chandler, Cochise, Colorado River, Deal, Desert, Ditat Deus, Eagar, Forty-Eighth, George, Geronimo, Gila, Gold, Grand Canyon, Greenlee, Humphrey's Peak, Janet, Jefferson, Maricopa, Mesa, Mohave, Name, Navajo, Path, Peoria, Phoenix, Pima, Pinal, Plan, Pluto, Role, Roosevelt Dam, Sonora, Tucson, Union

Yesterday's Answer: Avengers

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD: Volume 24, \$25.00; Volume 25, \$25.00; Volume 26, \$25.00; Volume 27, \$25.00; Volume 28, \$25.00; Volume 29, \$25.00; Volume 30, \$25.00; Volume 31, \$25.00; Volume 32, \$25.00; Volume 33, \$25.00; Volume 34, \$25.00; Volume 35, \$25.00; Volume 36, \$25.00; Volume 37, \$25.00; Volume 38, \$25.00; Volume 39, \$25.00; Volume 40, \$25.00; Volume 41, \$25.00; Volume 42, \$25.00; Volume 43, \$25.00; Volume 44, \$25.00; Volume 45, \$25.00; Volume 46, \$25.00; Volume 47, \$25.00; Volume 48, \$25.00; Volume 49, \$25.00; Volume 50, \$25.00; Volume 51, \$25.00; Volume 52, \$25.00; Volume 53, \$25.00; Volume 54, \$25.00; Volume 55, \$25.00; Volume 56, \$25.00; Volume 57, \$25.00; Volume 58, \$25.00; Volume 59, \$25.00; Volume 60, \$25.00; Volume 61, \$25.00; Volume 62, \$25.00; Volume 63, \$25.00; Volume 64, \$25.00; Volume 65, \$25.00; Volume 66, \$25.00; Volume 67, \$25.00; Volume 68, \$25.00; Volume 69, \$25.00; Volume 70, \$25.00; Volume 71, \$25.00; Volume 72, \$25.00; 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O2 Scuba & Resort, Inc. is looking for (1) Scuba Diving Instructor: \$5.05/hr. College degree & scuba diving instructor license required. Korean language speaking fluency required. (1) Cook (Japanese Cuisine): \$5.05/hr. High school diploma and at least 1 yr of professional cooking experience in Japanese cuisine required. Email resume to o2scuba@hanmi-saipan.com. Tel: 322-0102

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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## LIVE-IN CAREGIVER WANTED FOR ELDERLY WOMAN ON GUAM

Immediate position available, round trip airfare, one year contract, and one month trial period. Health care experience preferred but not required. Salary is based on U.S. minimum wage and credentials.

- Requirements:
1. Proof of eligibility to work in U.S.A. (U. S. passport or green card);
  2. Biographical data;
  3. Ability to speak English;
  4. Police clearance;
  5. Resume; and
  6. Two written references from former employers with contact information.

Applicants must send required documents to [db.conus@gmail.com](mailto:db.conus@gmail.com). Interviews will be held in March on Saipan. For more information call Dawn at (671) 688-7151.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, INC., Plaintiff,

vs.

RUFINO M. MENDIOLA and BENSELIN MENDIOLA Defendants.

Civil Action No. 99-0575T

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by this Court on August 14, 2009, in which the undersigned was Ordered to levy, execute and sell, in accordance with law, a parcel of real property, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Marpo Valley, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below.

Lot No. 115 T 29 (formerly part of Lot 115 T 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 115 T 04, the original of which was recorded 16 November 93 as Document No. 93-4005 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, time and place of sale:

The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendants), will be held on Friday, March 9, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. at the outdoor lobby, Tinian Superior Courthouse, San Jose Village, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 9th day of February, 2012.

/s/ Janet H. King, Esq.  
KING LAW OFFICE  
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# Rondo's triple-double carries Celtics over Bulls



**BOSTON (AP)**—Rajon Rondo recorded a triple-double with 32 points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds to lead the Boston Celtics to a 95-91 win Sunday over the Chicago Bulls, who were without star guard Derrick Rose.

Kevin Garnett added 13 points and 12 rebounds, reserve JaJuan Johnson had 12 points and Ray Allen 11 for the Celtics, who snapped a two-game skid. Rondo had season highs in both points and assists.

The win came after what Boston coach Doc Rivers called an "awful" performance in an 86-74 loss at Toronto on Friday. Rivers was very frustrated after the game and spoke about how it was "un-Celtic."

C.J. Watson, who started in Rose's spot, scored 22 points for the Bulls, whose win streak ended at five in the finale of a 6-3 road trip. Carlos Boozer also scored 22 and pulled down seven rebounds, while Joakim Noah had 16 points and nine boards.

Rose, the reigning league MVP, missed his second straight game with what coach Tom Thibodeau called "stiffness" in his back. Rose is expected to see a specialist Monday after the team returns to Chicago. He originally suffered the injury earlier in the week and was limited in Wednesday's win at New Orleans before missing Friday's victory over Charlotte.

The Bulls trailed by 14 with just over 5 minutes to play, but they turned up the pressure defensively and made a late run, pulling to 91-88 on Luol Deng's two free throws with 1:23 to go.

After a turnover by Paul Pierce, Watson was short on a 3-point attempt and Rondo grabbed the rebound with 21.5 seconds to go. He was fouled and hit both free throws.

Watson missed the second of two free throws and Rondo grabbed his 10th rebound with 9.8 seconds on the clock.

## Lakers 94, Raptors 92

In Toronto, Kobe Bryant hit a baseline jump shot with 4.2 seconds left as the Los Angeles Lakers wrapped up a six-game road trip by holding on to beat the Raptors, their eighth victory in nine meetings with Toronto.

Bryant, who scored 27 points, took an inbound pass from Metta World Peace and shot over the outstretched arms of James Johnson to deny the Raptors, who battled back after trailing by as many as 18.

Bryant made one of two from the line to put the Lakers up by two with 3.7 seconds left. Jose Calderon, who scored a career-high 30 points, inbounded to DeMar DeRozan for the final possession, but he airballed his potential tying shot at the buzzer.

## Wizards 98, Pistons 77

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, JaVale McGee had 22 points and eight rebounds, and John Wall dished out 14 assists as Washington routed Detroit.

Detroit entered on a season-best four-game winning streak, but saw it end when the Wizards went on a 22-2 run that spanned the third and fourth quarters.

Nick Young added 22 points for the Wizards. Greg Monroe had a game-high 27 for Detroit.

## Heat 107, Hawks 87

In Atlanta, LeBron James scored 23 points and Dwyane Wade added 21 as Miami blew out Atlanta after racing to a 22-point lead at halftime.

The Heat made a big statement in the Southeast Division against the second-place Hawks, leading by as many as 32 in what turned into nothing more than a showcase for Miami's Big Three.

By halftime, Wade already had 21 points, James was rolling along with 14 points and nine rebounds, and Chris Bosh put a double-double in the books with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Bosh finished with 14 points and a season-high 16 rebounds. James grabbed 13 rebounds and doled out six assists. Wade had a couple of steals and blocked a shot.

## Warriors 106, Rockets 97

In Oakland, California, Monta Ellis had 33 points and seven



assists, and David Lee added 15 points and 13 rebounds as Golden State beat Houston for its second straight victory over a Western Conference playoff contender.

Rookie reserve Klay Thompson and Stephen Curry had 14 points apiece and each made some big shots late to help the Warriors upset another top team. Golden State also won at Denver on Thursday night.

Kevin Martin started to break out of a recent shooting slump with 28 points and Luis Scola had 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Rockets, whose three-game winning streak ended.

## Jazz 98, Grizzlies 88

In Memphis, Tennessee, Al Jefferson had 21 points and a season-high 15 rebounds, and Gordon Hayward added 23 points as Utah snapped a three-game losing streak.

Hayward shot 8 of 12 from the field, part of a 51 percent shooting performance by the Jazz on the night. Paul Millsap finished with 16 for Utah, shooting 7 of 11. Raja Bell had 10 points.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 22 points, while Mike Conley (six assists) and Marc Gasol scored 17 apiece.

Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett, left, creates a screen as Rajon Rondo (9) drives for the basket in front of Chicago Bulls' Carlos Boozer, right, in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012.

AP

# Lin, Rubio revive teams, bolster NBA abroad

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—One point guard has practically been a household name since he started playing professionally at 14, a lottery pick who has made the two-year wait for his flashy passes well worth it.

The other went undrafted out of Harvard and unwanted in his first two stops in the NBA before a desperate team and a desperate coach gave him the chance he needed on the game's biggest stage.

In their own different, yet equally dynamic ways, Ricky Rubio and Jeremy Lin have put their dormant franchises on their backs and given a jolt to the NBA's long-standing mission of bringing the game to every corner of the world.

As the first American-born player of Chinese or Taiwanese descent, Lin is re-opening doors in Asia that some feared to be closing in the wake of Yao Ming's retirement. He's led the New York Knicks to five straight victories and has become an instant fan favorite at Madison Square Garden after Golden State and Houston both sent him packing.

Rubio is the Spanish sensation who has fans in Barcelona watching on Internet feeds in the wee hours of the morning.

His infectious play has made him an instant rock star in the Twin Cities and has the Timberwolves gunning for the playoffs for the first time since 2004.

Together, they give the NBA two fresh young faces to trumpet to hoops-hungry hotbeds in Asia and Western Europe.

"The world is changing," Rubio said after his Wolves lost to Lin's Knicks 100-98 on Saturday night. "It's not only America, it's not only Europe. The world is the world. It's growing up. Everybody's following the NBA and they love if they have some players from their cities."

Star players from overseas or with international appeal are nothing new to the NBA, which has marketed itself globally better than the other three major American sports of football, baseball and hockey. Germany's Dirk Nowitzki is a former MVP who won a title last year, Spain's Pau and Marc Gasol are high-profile players and Yao helped shepherd the league into China.

But as point guards, Lin and Rubio have the ball in their hands and control of the game at all times. And while their games, backgrounds and upbringings have been nearly

polar opposites, the electricity they provide serves as a tie that binds.

"Both fill up the stat sheet, both play extremely hard and both are just infectious not only in their play but their personality as well," Timberwolves All-Star Kevin Love said. "People just seem to love both of them."

"Ricky was kind of a fairy tale before he came over here and has really blossomed into a tremendous player and is only going to get better. But Lin, he really came out of nowhere."

Lin is the scorer, having poured in 109 points in his first four starts, including 38 in a victory over the Lakers on Friday night that pushed coverage of the Super Bowl champion Giants off the back pages of the Big Apple tabloids. That's more than any player has had in his first four starts since the NBA-ABA merger, besting Allen Iverson, Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal.

"It's been pretty surreal," Lin said. "I'm just really trying to wake up every day and enjoy, soak it all in, but at the same time stay focused on what we're doing, which is playing basketball games and trying to help the team win. Besides that, just really enjoying the whole

experience."

He's become an Internet sensation, increasing his Twitter followers from fewer than 10,000 to nearly 200,000 in the week since he's taken over the starting job. More people have mentioned him on Twitter than LeBron James and his No. 17 Knicks jersey is the league's top seller over the last eight days.

Asian fans have flocked to watch him at viewing parties in China, at the Garden in New York and at Target Center on Saturday night, where the Lin-Rubio matchup drew the fourth-largest crowd in Timberwolves history. Lin received a loud cheer from the road crowd in pregame introductions, and Knicks center Tyson Chandler isn't surprised.

"I think I would cheer for him if I was coming to a game," Chandler said. "He's the feel-good story. He gets the same thing from his teammates. You want to see a guy like him succeed."

Most importantly, the Knicks have gone from 8-15 to 13-15 with Lin running the show, inspiring all kinds of nicknames, some more creative than others.

"Jeremy Lin is a role model!" Lakers forward Metta

World Peace tweeted. "My son is black and Philippine. Asian American... He loves incredible... Keep it up young fella!!!"

Rubio is the playmaker who is fifth in the league in assists and first in steals. With every no-look pass on the break or behind-the-back dime to Love, his popularity has grown.

Fans chant "Ole! Ole! Ole! Ole!" as an homage to his European roots and a team that fell completely off the Twin Cities sporting landscape after losing 132 games over the previous two seasons has suddenly made Target Center the place to be again.

The floppy-haired 21-year-old has been a fixture on the nightly highlight shows as well with his effortless lob passes that have lifted the Timberwolves (13-15) to their best start since 2006.

"It's different. We have different teams. But he's doing an amazing job," Rubio said. "Everybody can see that nobody was talking about him in the beginning and now it seems like New York is all his. He's doing a great job and I hope the best for him."

The Big Apple can't get enough of Linsanity. Rubio holds the Minny-Apple in the palm of his hand. And you get the feeling this is only the beginning.



# Mickelson crushes Tiger and wins Pebble Beach

**PEBBLE BEACH, Calif.** (AP)—He knew his game was getting close, and he broke through with flair Sunday in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

That turned out to be Phil Mickelson, not Tiger Woods.

In a big, big way.

Mickelson went from a six-shot deficit to a two-shot lead in just six holes, closed with an 8-under 64 for a two-shot victory over Charlie Wi and gave Woods a Sunday thrashing not many saw coming.

Mickelson and Woods played in the second-to-last group, and Mickelson beat him by 11 shots. He won for the fourth time at Pebble Beach, and became only the ninth player in PGA Tour history with 40 wins.

"Pebble Beach ... it feels awesome no matter what number it is," Mickelson said.

It was anything but that for Woods, who was reduced to a supporting role on a cool, overcast day along the Pacific. Right when it looked as though Woods might still be in the game after holing a bunker shot for birdie on the par-3 12th, Mickelson answered by pouring in a 30-foot par putt.

Mickelson seized control for good with a 40-foot par save on the 15th hole, and he played it safe—Mickelson is capable of

that every once in a while—on the 18th hole and still made birdie.

Wi, who started the final round with a three-shot lead, four-putted for double bogey on the opening hole and never quite recovered. He closed with back-to-back birdies for an even-par 72 and his fifth runner-up finish on tour.

It was the third straight week on tour that the winner started the final round at least six shots behind a 54-hole leader going after his first tour victory.

The shocker, though, was how Woods fell apart.

He has been taking big strides with his game over the past few months, and he looked poised to break through after a 67 in the third round at Pebble Beach got him to within four shots of the lead.

But he failed to make birdie on the easy opening stretch at Pebble Beach, and even when he made his first birdie at the par-5 sixth, Mickelson poured in a 20-foot eagle putt to take the outright lead.

"I didn't hit it as bad as the score indicated, but I putted awful," Woods said. "As good as I felt on the greens yesterday, I felt bad today. Anything I tried to do wasn't working. Consequently, I made a ton of



Phil Mickelson holds his trophy on the 18th green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links after winning the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament in Pebble Beach, Calif., Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012.

mistakes on the green."

Two weeks ago in his 2012 debut at Abu Dhabi, Woods was tied for the lead with unheralded Robert Rock going into the final round and didn't break par, tying for third.

Woods used to own Mickelson, but that changed at the 2007 Deutsche Bank Championship. This was the fifth straight time Mickelson posted the better score when playing in the same group as Woods in the final round.

Mickelson has won three of those tournaments, although they have yet to be in the final group on those occasions.

Mickelson started his season sluggishly, failing to crack the top 25 at the Humana Challenge and Phoenix Open, and missing the cut at Torrey Pines. He said his putting was as good as ever, and it was a matter of getting his game in sync.

It simply sang on Sunday, mostly his amazing touch on the greens - a long eagle putt at No. 2 that caught part of the hole, long two-putts for par and enough birdies to make him a winner at Pebble Beach again.

"It feels just amazing," Mickelson said. "I felt like my game was there, but coming out the

first couple of weeks, I posted some horrendous scores and started to question it. To be able to play the way I did the last 18 holes really means a lot."

Mickelson finished at 17-under 269 and earned \$1.152 million for his first win since the Houston Open last year. He will move to No. 11 in the world.

Ricky Barnes closed with a 67 and finished third. Kevin Na tied for fifth and earned a spot in the Match Play Championship in two weeks at Arizona.

Wi talked about battling the demons of self-doubt, and they must have had the first green surround-

ed. Equipped with a three-shot lead to start the final round, Wi four-putted from 35 feet above the hole for a double bogey.

Just like that, the game was on.

That still wasn't enough for Woods to get in on the action. Standing in the sixth fairway, Woods was only one shot out of the lead, yet the sleeves of his red shirt and his name on the leaderboard didn't seem to make him stand out the way it has before.

The opening holes had something to do with that, and watching Mickelson play alongside him.

Mickelson nearly holed an eagle putt across the second green; Woods missed a 5-foot birdie putt that stayed 2 inches above the hole. Mickelson holed a 15-foot birdie putt down the hill at the fourth; Woods had a 30-foot putt up the hill that was 3 feet short. Mickelson's tee shot on the par-3 fifth settled a foot from the cup. Woods missed his birdie putt from 12 feet.

Yes, there was a big charge at Pebble Beach—from Lefty.

Mickelson started the day six shots behind and went two shots ahead with an eagle on the sixth hole. Woods then vanished in a series of blunders—missing a 2 1/2-foot par putt on the seventh, missed a 5-foot par putt on the eighth, and a third straight bogey at No. 9 when he hit his approach into the bunker.

The only hope for Woods came on the 12th, when he holed his bunker shot. It looked like it might be a two-shot swing, pulling him to within three of the lead, until Mickelson made his 30-footer for par.

On the next hole, Mickelson hit an approach to 2 feet and Woods' tee shot landed in a divot.

"It's frustrating because I had a chance," Woods said. "All I had to do was get off to a good, solid start. And I didn't do that."

## Harrison, Isner complete US rout of Switzerland

**FRIBOURG, Switzerland** (AP)—The United States completed its 5-0 rout of Switzerland in the first round of the Davis Cup on Sunday, with 19-year-old Ryan Harrison and John Isner winning the closing singles matches.

Harrison made his Davis Cup debut, defeating Michael Lammer 7-6 (0), 7-6 (4) to extend the Americans' lead to 4-0. Isner, who stunned Roger Federer in four sets Friday, then beat Marco Chiudinelli 6-3, 6-4 to give the U.S. its first sweep since a 2004 first-round series against Austria.

"It was really exciting to be out there," Harrison said. "To be part of this week was a huge experience."

The U.S. will play at France in the April 6-8 quarterfinals. In other pairings, it's: Argentina vs. Croatia, Austria vs. Spain and Czech Republic vs. Serbia.

Harrison was selected by captain Jim Courier after the U.S. sealed its victory Saturday, when Mardy Fish and Mike Bryan beat Olympic doubles champions Federer and Stanislas Wawrinka. Federer and Fish had been scheduled to meet in Sunday's first match.

Courier praised Harrison's maturity and all-around game.

"You see the weapons. He has got a lot of upside and I

look forward to sitting on the bench and watching it firsthand," Courier said. "This was a great experience for Ryan and for me."

Harrison, ranked 95th, dominated the first-set tiebreaker against the 251st-ranked Lammer with volley winners and strong serves, clinching it with a powerful passing shot.

"I got the first point off and that was pretty big. After that, it just kind of flowed," Harrison said.

Courier, a Davis Cup and four-time Grand Slam winner, suggested the 17th-ranked Isner is on the verge of a career breakthrough.

"I learned that John can beat anyone at any time, because no one has a chance if he plays the way he plays, and serves the way he serves, unless they play incredible defensive tennis," Courier said.

Isner cruised against Chiudinelli, the 190th-ranked childhood friend of Federer, and served his ninth ace on match point.

"I definitely played top-notch tennis this weekend in tricky conditions—in Europe, in February, on clay," Isner said. "No matter the surface, no matter the opponent, a lot of times the ball, the point, the match is going to be in my control."



**NEW YORK** (A P)—The Baseball Hall of Fame is starting a drug education

program for students and young adults—in the same year Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa will appear on ballot for the first time after careers tainted by steroid accusations.

While adding PEDs to RBIs and ERAs among its interests, the Hall emphasized Wednesday that its new initiative wasn't tied to the former stars up for election or the people who will choose them.

"It is not intended to cast a directive to voters about Hall of Fame worthy candidates," shrine

president Jeff Idelson said.

Mark McGwire, 10th on the career home run list, has never come close to election after admitting he used steroids and human growth hormone. Neither has Rafael Palmeiro, who topped 500 homers and 3,000 hits but was suspended for a positive test for performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds, a seven-time NL MVP, and Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, will appear on the ballot mailed to voters around Thanksgiving. So will Sosa, who hit 609 homers.

The Hall makes no attempt to influence members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America when they pick the

players for Cooperstown.

"Hall of Fame voting has been a part of this nation's fabric since 1936, and has touted the virtues of character, sportsmanship and integrity, along with the contributions to the game, as integral qualifications for earning election," Idelson said.

Education is part of the mission for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, along with honoring the game's greats and displaying artifacts.

The Hall plans to promote a healthy lifestyle that is free of PEDs. The program will be called "Be A Superior Example," or "BASE" for short, and will work with the Taylor Hooton Foundation and the Professional Baseball

Athletic Trainers Society.

In the next 18 months, the Hall hopes to conduct a nationwide survey, hold a summit in Cooperstown on drugs and begin a national registry for people to pledge commitments to live free of PEDs.

"It is through the education programs that we are able to fulfill our mission of providing context to the issues that have faced our game, as a reflection of American history, throughout its history," Idelson said.

The program is a further way of teaching youth "about American culture, with topics ranging from history and character education to math and science, through the lens of baseball," he said.

## Rangers, Nelson Cruz strike \$16M, 2-year deal



AL championship series MVP Nelson Cruz has agreed to a \$16 million, two-year contract with the Texas Rangers.

The deal includes \$500,000 in performance bonuses over the two years. With the agreement, negotiated by agents Sam and Seth Levinson, Cruz avoids an arbitration hearing

that had been scheduled for next week.

A 31-year-old slugging outfielder, Cruz had asked for \$7.5 million in arbitration and the team had offered \$5.5 million.

He made \$3.65 million last year.

The deal came one day after Elvis Andrus and the Rangers completed a \$14.4 million, three-year contract that avoided a hearing. (AP)



# NMASA searches for 2 delegates to FISU Forum



The International University Sports Federation (FISU) will hold the 2012 FISU Forum from March 26 to 31 in Taipei, Taiwan.

Held every two years, the Forum is an opportunity for the students and officials from the university sports movement of the FISU member associations to meet each other. The Forum aims to offer the conditions for a meeting and exchange, associating culture and education with physical and sporting activities. The Forum provides an opportunity for students, teaching staff and sports leaders from different backgrounds to get to know and understand each other in order for participants to be

enriched by all the different aspects of their diversity. The theme of this year's Forum is "University Sport: A Platform for Sustainable Development."

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) is the member of FISU representing university sport in the Northern Mariana Islands. As a member of FISU, NMASA is entitled to send delegates to the 2012 FISU Forum.

NMASA, with the sponsorship of the FISU Forum Organizing Committee and the Oceania University Sports Association (OUSA), is able to send two student-delegates, one male and one female, to the 2012 Forum on a full scholarship basis. Airfare, airport transfers, registration charges, accommodation, and meals will be fully paid for.

NMASA invites applications from eligible students. Applicants must be (a) between the age of 17 and 27, inclusive; (b) citizen of the United States; (c) resident of the Northern Mariana Islands; and (d) full-time student at any high school or post-secondary institution.

Students who are selected must be willing to commit to being an active member of the OUSA Student Commission or the OUSA Gender Equity Commission.

Application forms can be obtained by contacting NMASA at [mwhite@saipan.com](mailto:mwhite@saipan.com). Completed applications must be submitted electronically to NMASA by Friday, Feb. 17, at 5pm.

The NMASA's board of directors will select the student-delegates and its decision is final. *(PR)*

## ABRAMS

From Page 28

About 1,000 athletes are expected to compete in Turkey with more than 500

## BLUE

From Page 28

period, holding QQ to nine points to move within two at halftime, 30-28.

Blue Haus then grabbed the driver's seat by the end of the third canto off Esdrelon's back-to-back triples, 46-41, while QQ continued to struggle offensively after the break. Esdrelon went cold in the fourth, but Camacho and Talania were there to step up to keep Blue Haus afloat and send the game into overtime.

### Mobil Smiles 79, Smart Cagers 72

In the second game, Mobil Smiles exploded for 34 points in the fourth quar-

ter to beat Smart Cagers. Mobil was behind by nine after three periods, 45-54, when the trio of Angelo Fernando, Jun Estolas, and Gyles Ruloked teamed up in the come-from-behind victory. They combined for 26 of Mobil's total production in the fourth quarter with Fernando firing 19, Estolas adding nine, and Ruloked chipping in seven. Ernie Moises also contributed in the fourth-quarter attack with his five points, while Bart Demapan had three.

Smart Cagers scored only 18 points in the payoff period and was limited to five field goals in that canto.

Estolas led all scorers with 27 points, while Fernando finished with 18. Demapan and Ruloked tallied 11 and 10, respectively.

\$10,000 for third. The three other placers (fourth to sixth) take home \$9,000, \$6,000, and \$4,000. For relays, the Top 3 finishers will receive \$40,000, \$20,000, and 10,000, while the next three will pocket \$8,000, \$6,000, and \$4,000.

### First Game

**Blue Haus 74** – Camacho 25, Estolas 16, Talania 13, Aquino 10, Fernandez 6.

**QQ Rent A Car 64** – Mangali 13, Cruz 10, Camacho 10, Pagarao 8, Abuel 8, Sison 5, Montes 4, Paraiso 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 10-21, 28-30, 46-41, 62-62, 74-64.

### Second Game

**Mobil Smiles 79** – Estolas 27, Fernando 18, Demapan 11, Ruloked 10, Moises 7, Abuan 2, Dayrit 2, Bicara 1, Factor 1.

**Smart Cagers 72** – De Dos 13, Usi 11, Peredo 11, Inos 8, Santos 6, Sacramento 5, Rivera 5, Dayrit 4, Culala 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 9-14, 24-32, 45-54, 79-72.

## GIRLS

From Page 28

whipped Ami Tsukagoshi, 8-2. Tsukagoshi survived the first round with an 8-4 win against Grace Choi last Saturday.

The semis and final matches will be played this weekend.

In other results in Week 1 of the Coconut Classic, Malika Miyawaki and Gillian Villagomez booked the first two semis tickets in the girls U10 singles. Villagomez moved into the next round

after a 6-3 win over Sakura Sato, while Miyawaki blanked Asia Raulerson, 6-0. Catherine Atalig, Anna Calvert, Ruth Park, and Mimi Sakano fought for the last two semis seats last Sunday, but results of their matches were unavailable at press time.

In the girls U15 and U18 singles, preliminary results show Carol Lee beating Emily Jones, 8-4, and Thee-cel Minor prevailing over Alina Ishikawa, 8-4. Both events have a round-robin format and winners will only be determined after Week 2 of the competition. Amy Arenovski and

Jodel Fernandez are also playing in the girls U18, while Negahr Rastguiv, Adele Hudkins, and Mikayla Lopez are the three other entries in the girls U15 singles.

Some players in the U15 and U18 are also participating in the women's singles. Lopez and Fernandez automatically advanced to the semis after drawing byes in the opening round. Rastguiv and Sakiko Eda completed the Final Four cast after downing separate foes last Saturday. Ratguiv won over Mei Demapan, 8-2, while Eda topped Kinumi Taniguchi, 8-3.

## CLOUDS

From Page 28

Moreover, it is not just about coming up with the money by Saturday morning; gathering and collecting the required paperwork from all teams and submitting them to the Little League Baseball head office in Williamsport, Pennsylvania has remained at the top of the SLLBI board of directors' to-do list since its establishment.

The head office requires submission of all team rosters and both, managers and coaches, are required to fill out official volunteer forms. Then background checks are to be performed on the local level before being verified by Williamsport.

According to SLLBI president Juan I. Tenorio, regardless of the entrance

fee submissions, if the SLLBI starts its season without submitting the required documents, or carrying out background checks, it may face sanctions from the Little League Baseball head office of up to six years or more.

"If we don't follow the bylaws then [LLB] officials in Williamsport may not recognize the SLLBI as a valid member, and we may be excluded from the show for a long time," said Tenorio in a phone interview on Monday.

Furthermore, Tenorio has repeatedly stressed the importance of these technical requirements in past meetings and he assures that the managers and coaches have had more than a month's notice to deliver on their end.

If documents and required entrance fees deposits are not submitted by Wednesday, then the opening day of the SLLBI season will have to be

postponed, which according to Tenorio, will cause rigorous effects to the game schedule.

The setback may cause a number of doubleheaders for some teams in order to complete the season on time.

All things considered, it is likely that Tenorio will call for an emergency meeting on Wednesday for all managers, coaches, and league officials for a final decision.

Until further notice the traditional opening ceremony is set to start at 9am on Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. After christening, the season kicks off with a rewind of last year's championship series.

Up to 12 teams make up this year's Majors Division, the Junior Division includes seven teams, the Senior Division will field nine teams, and the Big Division is expected to feature five squads.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	19	9	.679	—
Boston	15	12	.556	3 1/2
New York	13	15	.464	6
Toronto	9	20	.310	10 1/2
New Jersey	8	21	.276	11 1/2

##### Southeast Division

Miami	21	7	.750	—
Atlanta	18	10	.643	3
Orlando	17	11	.607	4
Washington	6	22	.214	15
Charlotte	3	24	.111	17 1/2

##### Central Division

Chicago	23	7	.767	—
Indiana	17	10	.630	4 1/2
Milwaukee	12	15	.444	9 1/2
Cleveland	10	16	.385	11
Detroit	8	21	.276	14 1/2

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

San Antonio	19	9	.679	—
Dallas	17	11	.607	2
Houston	16	12	.571	3
Memphis	14	14	.500	5
New Orleans	4	23	.148	14 1/2

##### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	21	6	.778	—
Denver	16	12	.571	5 1/2
Utah	14	12	.538	6 1/2
Portland	15	13	.536	6 1/2
Minnesota	13	15	.464	8 1/2

##### Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	17	8	.680	—
L.A. Lakers	16	12	.571	2 1/2
Phoenix	12	15	.444	6
Golden State	10	14	.417	6 1/2
Sacramento	10	17	.370	8

#### Yesterday's Games

L.A. Lakers 94, Toronto 92
Boston 95, Chicago 91
Washington 98, Detroit 77
Miami 107, Atlanta 87
Golden State 106, Houston 97
Utah 98, Memphis 88

## NBA LEADERS

### SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	27	288	179	794	29.4
James, MIA	26	263	188	731	28.1
Durant, OKC	27	264	159	728	27.0
Love, MIN	26	211	199	665	25.6
Aldridge, POR	28	266	120	653	23.3
Westbrook, OKC	27	236	128	618	22.9
Anthony, NYK	22	165	134	491	22.3
Ellis, GOL	22	183	96	488	22.2
Rose, CHI	23	182	111	506	22.0
Griffin, LAC	25	217	94	529	21.2
D. Williams, NJN	28	197	134	585	20.9
Howard, ORL	28	210	156	576	20.6
Bosh, MIA	27	201	114	523	19.4
Parker, SAN	28	202	112	522	18.6
Jennings, MIL	27	187	70	503	18.6
Jefferson, UTA	22	175	59	409	18.6
Granger, IND	26	160	112	483	18.6
Gay, MEM	27	207	65	499	18.5
J. Johnson, ATL	27	187	72	498	18.4
Lee, GOL	22	168	68	404	18.4

### FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Chandler, NYK	109	157	.694
Splitter, SAN	104	166	.627
Nash, PHX	147	261	.563
Gortat, PHX	174	310	.561
Howard, ORL	210	378	.556
Bynum, LAL	152	280	.543
James, MIA	263	485	.542
Monroe, DET	187	351	.533
Okafor, NOR	114	214	.533
Griffin, LAC	217	408	.532

### REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	28	99	334	433	15.5
Love, MIN	26	107	254	361	13.9
Bynum, LAL	23	80	210	290	12.6

Varejao, CLE	25	109	178	287	11.5
Cousins, SAC	26	113	182	295	11.3
Griffin, LAC	25	77	198	275	11.0
Humphries, NJN	27	105	175	280	10.4
Gasol, LAL	27	79	197	276	10.2
Gasol, MEM	27	57	214	271	10.0
Gortat, PHX	27	67	203	270	10.0

### ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	25	258	10.3
Rondo, BOS	18	171	9.5
Paul, LAC	20	181	9.1
Calderon, TOR	28	246	8.8
Rubio, MIN	28	244	8.7
D. Williams, NJN	28	235	8.4
Rose, CHI	23	179	7.8
Lowry, HOU	25	191	7.6
Parker, SAN	28	212	7.6
Wall, WAS	27	193	7.1

## PEBBLE BEACH SCORES

**PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP)**—Scores Sunday from the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, played at the 6,816-yard, par-72 Pebble Beach Golf Links (p), the 6,838-yard, par-70 Monterey Peninsula Country Club Shore Course (m) and the 6,953-yard, par-72 Spyglass Hill Golf Club (s).

### FINAL ROUND

Phil Mickelson (500), \$1,152,000	70s-65m-70p-64-269
Charlie Wi (300), \$691,200	61m-69p-69s-72-271
Ricky Barnes (190), \$435,200	70s-66m-70p-67-273
Aaron Baddeley (135), \$307,200	66m-72p-69s-67-274
Kevin Na (105), \$243,200	66s-69m-70p-70-275
Dustin Johnson (105), \$243,200	63p-72s-70m-70-275
Padraig Harrington (88), \$206,400	68m-66p-72s-70-276
Ken Duke (88), \$206,400	64p-73s-65m-74-276
Spencer Levin (68), \$153,600	69m-69p-71s-68-277
Jimmy Walker (68), \$153,600	69s-68m-71p-69-277
Jason Kokrak (68), \$153,600	68m-67p-72s-70-277
Greg Owen (68), \$153,600	68s-67m-72p-70-277
Kevin Streelman (68), \$153,600	70m-69p-68s-70-277
Brendon Todd (68), \$153,600	67p-69s-69m-72-277
Richard H. Lee (54), \$102,400	65m-71p-73s-69-278
Steven Bowditch (54), \$102,400	71s-67m-72p-68-278
Hunter Mahan (54), \$102,400	65m-70p-70s-73-278
Bob Estes (54), \$102,400	67s-70m-69p-72-278
Tiger Woods (54), \$102,400	68s-68m-67p-75-278
Davis Love III (49), \$71,936	70s-70m-70p-69-279
Robert Garrigus (49), \$71,936	68m-69p-71s-71-279
Brian Gay (49), \$71,936	69s-65m-74p-71-279
Brian Harman (49), \$71,936	64p-73s-71m-71-279
Ryan Moore (49), \$71,936	72s-64m-71p-72-279
Danny Lee (45), \$51,040	63p-73s-74m-70-280
Vijay Singh (45), \$51,040	68p-68s-71m-73-280
Geoff Ogilvy (45), \$51,040	70m-69p-68s-73-280
Kevin Stadler (45), \$51,040	69s-70m-73p-68-280
Miguel Angel Carballo (40), \$40,693	69m-71p-69s-72-281
Sean O'Hair (40), \$40,693	68p-74s-69m-70-281
Zach Johnson (40), \$40,693	67m-72p-72s-70-281
Brian Davis (40), \$40,693	70p-74s-68m-69-281
Ryan Palmer (40), \$40,693	72p-71s-64m-74-281
Rocco Mediate (40), \$40,693	71s-66m-76p-68-281
Matthew Goggin (34), \$31,552	69m-71p-69s-73-282
Mark D. Anderson (34), \$31,552	69p-71s-71m-71-282
Josh Teater (34), \$31,552	64m-71p-77s-70-282
Charley Hoffman (34), \$31,552	71s-71m-71p-69-282
John Huh (34), \$31,552	70s-69m-71p-73-283
D.J. Trahan (27), \$21,850	70p-69s-69m-75-283
Jonas Blixt (27), \$21,850	65m-73p-73s-72-283
Daniel Summerhays (27), \$21,850	66m-69p-73s-75-283
Joseph Bramlett (0), \$21,850	66s-73m-69p-75-283
Nick Watney (27), \$21,850	69s-69m-74p-71-283
Jim Furyk (27), \$21,850	74p-71s-68m-70-283
Tom Gillis (27), \$21,850	75s-68m-70p-70-283
Heath Slocum (27), \$21,850	68p-73s-70m-73-284
Harris English (27), \$21,850	70m-68p-73s-73-284
Joe Ogilvie (20), \$15,584	72p-70s-69m-73-284
Roberto Castro (20), \$15,584	69m-72p-72s-71-284
Bobby Gates (20), \$15,584	71p-68s-70m-76-285
Ian Poulter (20), \$15,584	72s-70m-70p-73-285
Roland Thatcher (16), \$14,656	72s-70m-70p-73-285
Tom Pernice Jr. (16), \$14,656	72s-70m-70p-73-285
Gary Christian (16), \$14,656	72s-69m-72p-72-285
Hunter Haas (16), \$14,656	73s-69m-70p-74-286
Matt Bettencourt (12), \$14,208	70s-71m-72p-73-286
John Mallinger (12), \$14,208	67m-72p-74s-73-286
Pat Perez (12), \$14,208	68p-75s-65m-79-287
Shane Bertsch (9), \$13,760	70m-70p-72s-75-287
Tim Petrovic (9), \$13,760	71s-71m-70p-75-287
Cameron Tringale (9), \$13,760	68s-73m-72p-74-287
Sang-Moon Bae (9), \$13,760	72s-71m-70p-75-288
Lee Janzen (6), \$13,376	69m-72p-72s-75-288
Kyle Reifers (6), \$13,376	72s-65m-74p-78-289
D.A. Points (4), \$13,120	72p-71s-70m-76-289
Stuart Appleby (4), \$13,120	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# 2012 Northern Passage

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Antonee Aguilar, left, and Nap Dizon cool down after completing the road race.



MTB participants pedal up to Marianas Country Club.



Lewie Tenorio crosses the finish line.



The last wave of bikers head up to Marianas Country Club during last Sunday's 2012 Northern Passage



Mieko Carey shows a temporary tattoo of one of her sponsors after completing the race.



Jojo Valencia negotiates a paved road in front of Mariana Resort.



Youth biker Jerome Diyco slows down as he nears the finish line.



Road bike finishers Joshua Berger, center, and Nicky Nichols join runner Mamiko Oshima-Berger for a photo after the race.



Two bikers head down to the finish line.



Ariel Lansangan waves to the crowd as he nears the finish line of the rookie road race.

**Activity Schedule for February 14, 2012**

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
(Morning practices)

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM  
(Evening practices)

There are no scheduled events.

**2012 Men's B Futsal League**

There are no scheduled events.





Rondo's triple-double carries Celtics over Bulls

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Mickelson crushes Tiger and wins Pebble Beach

PAGE 25

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012

## Abrams to compete in WORLD INDOORS

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**S**printer Rachel Abrams will be representing the CNMI to the 13th IAAF World Indoor Championships.

Abrams will race in the 60m run of the biennial competition, which will be held at the Ataköy Athletics Arena in Istanbul, Turkey from March 9 to 11. Joining her in Turkey is Northern Marianas Athletics coach Elias Rangamar.

"Rachel will be competing in her second off-island athletics tournament next month. We're hoping she could better Yvette Bennett's time in 2010," Rangamar said.

Bennett ran in the similar event in Doha, Qatar two years ago and timed in at 8.68 seconds on Heat 1. In 2006, Tyrone Omar competed in the same

race in Moscow, Russia, and recorded a CNMI national mark of 7.17 seconds.

"Rachel is not used to running indoors and next month's race is a first and a stepping stone for her. When she goes to college and tries out for a team, she could add an indoor experience to her resume," Rangamar added.

The Marianas High School student first represented the CNMI in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia and made it to the finals of the 200m race. Abrams timed in at 27.46 seconds to earn one of the two

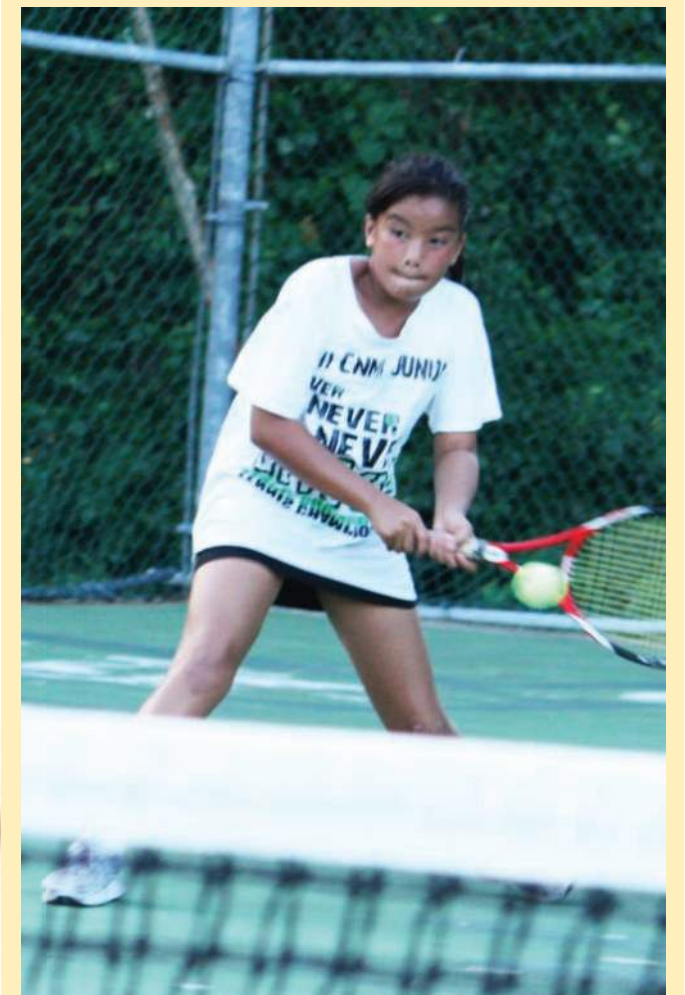
qualifying slots on Heat 3 and then logged 27.47 seconds in the rain-soaked finale. She also ran in the 100m event and competed in the long jump.

The CNMI is one of the 160 countries joining next month's World Indoors. The number is a record, surpassing the 147 nations that participated in Valencia, Spain in 2008. The CNMI missed the World Indoors four years ago before returning to the International Association of Athletics Federations-sanctioned event in 2010 in Qatar, joining 142 other countries.

See **ABRAMS** on **Page 26**

Rachel Abrams, seen here posing for TAGA Sports late last year, will leave for Turkey next month to compete in the 13th IAAF World Indoor Championships.

JESS PAGSINOHN



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gillian Villagomez makes a return near the net during her and Mihoko Tuttle's mixed up doubles game against George Poquiz and Tony Atalig in the 2012 White Coconut Classic last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

## Blue Haus pulls off OT win in DLX opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**DLX** Defending champion Blue Haus took the long route to victory in the opening day of the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity Basketball Invitational Friendship League, eking out a 74-64 overtime win over QQ Rent A Car last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Brandon Talania scored five straight points in closing minutes of the regulation, while Elmer Esdrelon and Badong Camacho fired six markers apiece in the extension to give Blue Haus a good start in the 10-team open league.

QQ Rent A Car, which is composed of some players who suited up for Blue Haus in the inaugural season, dropped its opening game after scoring only two points in overtime and losing Lerio Pagarao, who fouled out late in the regulation. George Cruz gave QQ Rent A Car its lone field goal in the extra five minutes of play off a put-back, going into the final 2:30 minutes of the match.

QQ Rent A Car was still in the game, down by only four, 68-



64, entering the last two minutes when Elene Mangali missed one triple after another and Wowie Abuel also muffed a couple of shots from downtown.

While QQ Rent A Car took low-percentage shots in the closing minutes of overtime, Blue Haus opted for sure baskets with Camacho nailing back-to-back field goals underneath the basket. Esdrelon added two more points off a fastbreak layup after Mangali's sixth straight miss from beyond the arc to seal the win.

Camacho top-scored for Blue Haus with 25 points, while Esdrelon chipped in 16. Talania finished with 13, while Bernard Aquino contributed 10.

Mangali top-scored for QQ Rent A Car with 13, making two early triples and 12 points in the first period for their 21-10 lead. However, he was held to only one free throw in the last three quarters, while Blue Haus started recovering in the second

See **BLUE** on **Page 27**

Blue Haus' Badong Camacho pulls up for a bank shot against QQ Rent A Car defenders during the opening game in the DLX caging last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Girls U12 singles down to Final 4

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The semis cast in the girls U12 singles of the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic were completed over the weekend.

Making it to the Final Four were top seed Carol Lee, Sakura Imaaya, Julia Ishikawa, and Isabel Heras. Lee drew a bye in the first round and advanced to the semis after shutting out Sally Hwang last Sunday at the

American Memorial Park tennis courts, 8-0. Hwang marched into the quarterfinals after an 8-5 victory against Hana Nelson. Imaaya also had

a bye in the opening round and set up a semis duel against Lee, following an 8-1 triumph over Liza Atalig.

In the lower half of the draw, Ishikawa needed extra minutes to thwart Tania Tan, 9-7, and arranged a semis battle against Heras, who

See **GIRLS** on **Page 27**



## Clouds forming over Little League opening day

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. is calling all hands on deck after the conclusion of last Friday's local grounds rules meeting held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium



ments to avoid the delay. At first glance, the chances of a punctual start look uncertain as only seven of the 35 teams have submitted their required entrance fee deposits.

In past meetings it was agreed that submission of half of every team's \$500 entrance fee is required to the board before opening day with the other half due by the start of each team's sixth game, accordingly.

See **CLOUDS** on **Page 27**